Dear St. Stephen’s Family,

What a year! We embarked on an appreciative inquiry to practice listening and to come to some new ideas around mission and outreach. We celebrated our new altar window. We honored our rector and celebrated her forty years of ordained service to God and her communities. We have relied on our clergy parish members for Sunday supply celebrating and preaching, liturgical leadership, and pastoral care. We installed a columbarium for our parish and community. We have grown as lay leaders, taking on increased responsibilities and working together in strong committees with increasing clarity around purpose and mutual respect.

And now we close out this year with new opportunities.

Opportunity #1: Many funds have been raised for these “big money” projects, worthy improvements to our church. I come to you, representing the Vestry, to ask you to consider raising your pledge for the operations of our parish. We’ve seen that we have money to give, and we tend to give it to big projects. Please remember that without a functioning St. Stephen’s Church, the projects are for naught. We can’t maintain this building and the programs without an operating budget in the black.

In the words of our very good friend and excellent “to-the-point” writer, Mike Davis:

- If you’re behind on your pledge, please get current before the end of the year... or let Beth Stanway know that you will be short.
- If you’re current on your pledge, and if the stock market has been good to your investments, please share a holiday gift with us in the form of an extra gift to the operating budget.
- If you aren’t sure what to do, visit with someone on the Vestry or the Finance Committee and we’ll bring you up to date on our needs for the remainder of the year.

Opportunity #2: It is with extreme pleasure that I introduce our Interim Team: Diane Nancekivell, Catherine Nichols, Larry Yarbrough, Annemarie Deering, Mary McGuire and our Interim Team Leader - The Rev. Carole Wageman.

Let me explain. After Susan McGarry retired, our Ministry Portfolio was shared around the country with diocesan Transition Officers. Starting in September, the Vestry reviewed six ministry portfolios, interviewed five candidates, and offered calls to three of those candidates. One withdrew due to serious health complications, one accepted a call to another parish, and the third is accepting a position to serve another diocese. Bishop Ely and Transition Officer Lynn Bates watched our process unfold (no, not unravel!) and began to think outside the box. On November 27, in anticipation of the final candidate withdrawing, I spoke with Bishop Ely who laid out his idea: continue to tap our much loved clergy already here in the parish and invite a skilled clergy person to serve as our half-time Team Leader. He had someone in mind. He brought this idea to the Vestry meeting on Nov 28, and we wholeheartedly approved of the concept. The Bishop then spoke with each of our parish family clergy - Diane, Catherine, Larry, and Sarah to confirm their interest. Sarah is supportive and would like to remain in her backstop role of helping when she can but not actively involved in regular ministry. Two days later the proposed Team met with Carole, the Bishop, and Lynn Bates and we all agreed enthusiastically to create this Interim Team and work together to serve St. Stephen’s. This model includes Annemarie as our Parish Administrator and one layperson whom we agreed would be the Senior Warden to facilitate communications between the Team and the Vestry. We have signed
the Memorandum of Understanding forms and will be working out specific contracts during the next few weeks. The Interim Team will formally begin its work on Jan 2, 2019.

We have very few other answers and many questions. No, we don’t know exactly what each person’s role will be; we are creating a brand new model of Interim Ministry! We are very excited.

I would love to briefly introduce The Rev. Carole Wageman to you. She has been a priest in our diocese since 2003 and lives in Monkton with her husband, her mother, and her dog and cat. She completed the certificate program for Interim Ministry and has served as Interim Pastor at St. Luke’s in Chester, VT. Carole also served as Assistant Rector for eight and one half years at Trinity Church in Shelburne. This is a second career for her having spent much of her career working both administratively and programmatically in a Montpelier non-profit that served high risk youth. In Carole’s words from her letter to the Vestry: “I discovered and honed my own skills in administration, program design and development, grant writing, budget work, supervision, and most rewarding of all - how to bring together people of different skills and talents in order to create effective teams who worked with you, connected with community, and followed the goals of the program creatively.” Carole will serve St. Stephen’s as a half-time priest responsible for leading the Interim Team. She will celebrate and preach and share those duties, as well as pastoral care, with Diane, Catherine, and Larry. She will work with the rest of us to engage in our interim tasks of reconciliation from recent and distant hurts and discernment for our next clergy person.

The bishop has also been in conversation with Lucy Pellegrini, about whom many of you have been asking and perhaps others have been wondering. She thinks this Interim Model is a good, innovative plan, but she will not be part of the Interim Team. Lucy is clear that being assigned as the Deacon at St. Stephen’s now, or in the foreseeable future, is not appropriate. This is not unlike how Sarah Horton wishes to be part of the life of St. Stephen’s as an affiliated clergy member of the parish family. While you may see Lucy worshiping occasionally with the St. Stephen’s community, conversations are ongoing with the Bishop regarding placement in another parish.

So, stay tuned. Stay involved. Get involved. Raise your pledge. Give a year-end gift. Talk with Barb Stratton about stock transfers and giving options. We have Vestry and Discernment Team positions open - volunteer!

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice!...Be anxious about nothing, but in everything, with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:4, 6-7

Join me in my prayers for God’s peace and joy this Advent season as we muck out our hearts (a la Diane’s sermon from Dec 2) and make room for God’s love for all,

Mary McGuire
Senior Warden, St. Stephen’s Church

The Nominating Committee for vestry and convention delegates is comprised of the three vestry members whose terms are expiring, and two other parishioners—this year they are Lonnie Fisher, Paul Nelson and May Morris. Parishioners Jessica Hoagland and Sandy Ketcham complete the committee.

They are recruiting for the three regular vestry positions, as well as a one year replacement for Eric Davis, who steps down at the end of the year for personal and professional reasons.

So far Jim Pugh and Steve Sontum have agreed to run for vestry. Lonnie Fisher will run to fill Eric Davis’s slot. That leaves room for one more vestry nominee.

For the two conventions, three delegates and one alternate are needed for each. Ben Anderson-Ray and Elizabeth Oettinger will run for one convention, and Susan Anderson-Ray will run for alternate. Three more convention nominees are needed.

Be in touch with the nominating committee. Your help is needed!
In the many talents department:

**Marge Drexler**, who thinks this is no big deal, can sew well enough to make her own clothes that are even good enough to go to a wedding! Some of us take our clothes out for hemming!

**Jean Bergesen** reports sightings of a bobcat in the Gorham Lane area.

**Tom Klemmer** is a terrific fine woodworker. He has made tables for charity auctions that have sold in the many hundreds of dollars! He recently updated all the cabinetry in his shop.

In the Talented Teens and Adult Children Department

**Carter Lee** is now playing viola in the Vermont Youth Philharmonia.

Mom, **Emily Sunderman**, gives thanks for the carpool since the time it takes to drive to St. Mike’s and back plus practice is a mere five hours!

**Susie Klemmer** was absolutely wonderful in the Middlebury Union High School production of “Singing in the Rain.” She played the starring comedic role of Lina Lamott.

**Colin Yarbrough**, son of **Amy Hastings** and **Larry Yarbrough**, now has his PhD in Classics from the University of Texas, Austin. He defended his dissertation in August and **Amy** and **Larry** were there to celebrate.

**Cathy Smid’s** son, **Tide** and wife **Liz**, have been visiting. They had been in the west fighting fires. We are so glad they are safe.

**Thatcher Littlefield**, son of **Eleanor Littlefield**, has been certified as an official hockey coach. If you ever go to a Middlebury College hockey game you are sure to see **Eleanor** in her regular seat, top row behind the home bench. Granddaughter **Oprea** also plays hockey. Hockey runs in the family!

**Virginia Westbrook’s** son, **Sam**, is back in her orbit. He has moved back from California to become the Newscast Director for WPTZ Channel 5. She also reports that WPTZ is moving out of Plattsburgh and will have all operations in Burlington.

**Sandy Ketcham**, proud grandma, says her grandson, Michael Bedard, a senior at Otter Valley, has just been accepted at Champlain College where he will study Cyber Forensics. (Cyber Forensics involves gathering and studying digital data to help solve crimes.)

In the travel department

**Ryan and Barry Nevius** recently spent a glorious month in Italy. They have recently bought a Trek van (like the one

**Krissa Bolton** had) for cross country travel. Plus, they spent Thanksgiving in Portugal! Lucky ducks!

continued on page 4
Can we be Friends?  
Social Media at St. Stephen's

If you don’t belong to Facebook, it’s quite okay. But if you do use FB and go to St Stephen’s you’d do well to befriend the church (or follow, in social media-speak) so you can keep up with the very lively postings and announcements there. Ryan Nevius and Kitty Davis took over this ministry in the summer, and it has grown to be a very lively place. When you search for us on FaceBook, remember we are SAINT Stephen’s.

Our church’s Facebook Page was started by Jennifer Nelson who says she used it for “news and humor, occasionally something from the diocese.” Since Kitty and Ryan took over it has become a source of news and announcements (and a little humor thrown in sometimes).

When Kitty Davis asked several of our Facebook users for thoughts about the St. Stephen’s Facebook page Fran Washington sent her this:

The Facebook page is all the rage
We get parish news when we choose.
Those who worked so hard to make this so
Are appreciated more than they know.
No need for repetitive announcements as the service ends
More time for coffee and fellowship with parish friends.

For those of you who do not know her, Fran is Tom Klemmer’s mother. Currently she is spending half the year in Florida but she keeps up with us here at St. Stephen’s via our Facebook page. “I delight in seeing her ‘thumbs up’ Likes often,” Kitty says.

There are other worthwhile, instructional and amusing pages on FaceBook you might enjoy discovering. The source of some of our humor is Episcopal Memes. The Diocese of Vermont has a page, also.

News from the Pews continued from page 3

Sandy Ketcham went to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and did the Cabot Trail on Cape Breton Island. She also saw the Bay of Fundy, and the reversing waterfall. She recommends that if others go to that area go before October 1. That is the date when many things shut down—especially touristy things, including restaurants. A highlight was the foliage on the way back through Maine and New Hampshire.

Alice Van Tuyl recently toured New York City and saw all things that natives rarely do. Alice grew up in that area and loved her discoveries.

In the “can you top this” department

Emily Sunderman carries a Bible everywhere she goes; it is in her car. She is a part of the pastoral care committee and is ready and willing to help with healing.

Remember the really big, billion dollar lottery this month? No one won it.

-- Linda Horn
lindahorn14@gmail.com
802-388-2300

Next Parishscope: January 2019
Deadline for submissions: January 11th
Be in touch with editor Jennifer Nelson (jgnelson@middlebury.edu) or 802 388 7008 or Kitty Davis (kittychurchstuff@yahoo.com)

And give News from the Pews to Linda Horn (lindahorn14@gmail.com) or 802 388 2300
Radical Welcome comes to Adult Education:

Stephanie Spellers wrote a difficult book to read with challenging ideas to follow. Eric Davis diligently led us through two sessions on Radical Welcome during our Adult Education forum in September. We had lively conversations examining how St. Stephen's might undertake a radically welcoming stance in our community.

Spellers, the Canon to the Presiding Bishop, said she wrote Radical Welcome because she loves the Episcopal Church and wants to help the Church be changed by “the others” -- those who are marginalized in our society.

The Episcopal Church is very comfortable in the role of being welcoming. But being radically welcoming is not so easy. It means to seek out those who do not feel welcomed and figure out how to make “our church” feel like “their church.” It's different from opening the doors and handing out programs with a smile. There's a more intimate connection that Spellers is urging Episcopalians to make.

Why should we be radically welcoming? What’s the purpose of transforming our church to include “others”? One reason is that it's a spiritual practice. By saying that we love Christ so much that we want to truly welcome people -- not because we agree with them -- but because we are going to be changed by them and that's how we get closer to God.

The other reason for embracing radical welcome is because membership in Episcopal churches is dropping, the median age of parishioners is rising. As this trend continues, churches are having to close their doors.

Of course, Eric has thoughts about stemming the tide of this departure from the church. There’s another book he would like us to read and discuss for another Adult Education session. Stay tuned.

An Duclos
THE SEASON FOR GIVING

(Testimonial 1)
I have been thinking about why…
I have been thinking about why I promise annually to make offerings to St. Stephen’s. I grew up in a rule-based environment: we did what we had to do. One of these requirements was the old New England maxim “from those to whom much has been given, much is required”. If you have, you give back; you leave everything better than you found it. You don’t think about it, you just do it.

Although I am trying to transcend this, to know God in a more direct way, and to give only from that certain knowledge, at this point much of my knowledge is through longing and faith rather than direct experience. In consequence, I myself now give not so much from a personal, positive knowledge of God’s grace, but rather, because I know good things can and will happen here at St. Stephen’s, and I want to be part of that, part of the solution. I need to respect myself, and also be part of that glowing, courageous hope that we, with God’s help, can be a source of grace, joy and transformation.

Elizabeth Oettinger

(Testimonial 2)
I’m a St. Stephen’s Sustainer—I hope you are too!
‘Tis the season for giving, of course, and what we hear a lot about these days is “sustainer” giving. If you listen to VPR, you probably hear this at least once a day!

Well, I’m a St. Stephen’s Sustainer* and I hope you are too. What that means, of course, is that I make a commitment to give a regular amount to St. Stephen’s over the course of a year and then do my best to meet that goal. What makes “sustainer” giving so important is that St. Stephen’s then can plan for its operating costs and know that a dependable source of income will come in to meet those costs. Starting with our household budgets, we all know the importance of regular, dependable income!

When it comes to deciding how much to give, as a Christian and St. Stephen’s member, I must place some kind of monetary value on what I believe and what our faith community means to me. And then I must take the bold step of making that commitment through a giving goal. Figuring that out, I suggest, means listening to your heart, not just your head! For our family, the heart or center of our giving is St. Stephen’s. Sustaining, nourishing, and nurturing our faith life and the life of St. Stephen’s is the foundation from which we build for all else we give and do.

If you’ve already become a St. Stephen’s Sustainer for 2019, I’m grateful to join you. If you are still considering making a goal to sustain our church in the coming year, I ask you to listen to your heart and give prayerful consideration to becoming a Sustainer too.

With gratitude,
Amy Hastings

*Note—while making automatic deductions from your checking account directly to St. Stephen’s isn’t yet available, you can give regular gifts from your checking account using online bill pay or by using the “Donate Online” section under the Giving tab on our web site: www.ststephensmidd.org.

SOME BASICS ON GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN’S

I. Checks should be made payable to “St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church”.

II. Gifts of Stock or Securities. Special instructions are available at the church and soon to be on the web site. Most importantly, if you are considering a stock gift, you should contact our Church Treasurer, Barbara Stratton, barbara.stratton@comcast.net, (802)758-9280. She will forward you detailed instructions. Freda Tutt at Raymond James Financial Planning in Burlington handles stock transactions on our behalf, fredo.tutt@raymondjames.com.

III. Gifts from an IRA. A required minimum distribution from your IRA given to St. Stephen’s can, re-
THE SEASON FOR GIVING

AN UPDATE ON OUR FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Here we are again in Advent. It seems like only yesterday that we celebrated the ingathering of our ‘giving goal’ cards. The Fall Campaign Committee purposefully scheduled that service before Advent because the hustle and bustle of the season doesn’t leave much time for dedicating a service to our giving intentions. In a way it’s a shame because Advent is a time when we are preparing to welcome God’s greatest gift, his son, Jesus. It’s a season of giving where we share gifts with friends and family. And, we open our hearts to all those worthwhile charities we like to support.

How many of us still think of pledging as our way of making a commitment to our church? Recent fall campaigns at St. Stephen’s have purposefully avoided the term ‘pledge’ because it implies a sense of obligation. Support of our church shouldn’t rise from a sense of obligation, it should come from the heart. As it was written in Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians, “Each must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” II Corinthians 9:7

A lot has happened in the life of our church since last year and I think we need to do a lot of thinking about how we support the role of our church in our lives. If you are like me, St. Stephen’s plays an enormous role in your life. Our church community is wonderful, full of great people, it gives us a wonderful place to enjoy our worship and it does a lot for our community.

And so, I want to urge everyone who reads this to consider or even reconsider their giving goals. They are targets, not pledges. Something we can aim for. Something that we can use to stretch our giving capacities. The way I look at it, if I forego one latte a month, I have $48 I can spend elsewhere. If I forego one a week, it’s $208 a year. I’m not saying that everyone splurges on lattes like I do, but if we all look at what and how we spend the abundance that God has provided us, we can perform miracles for ourselves and others. That’s not to say there aren’t some in our congregation that don’t have that kind of extra money. What I’m saying is that if we give from the heart, as much as we feel we can, then we’ll be giving at a level where we can feel good about ourselves.

John Hammer

“God loves a cheerful giver”

SOME BASICS ON GIVING continued from previous page

markably quickly and easily, lower your taxable income and satisfy minimum distribution requirements. Your IRA or plan custodian will know how to make such a qualified charitable contribution and see that it is directed to St. Stephen’s. For more information, please contact Church Treasurer, Barbara Stratton, barbara.stratton@comcast.net, (802)758-9280.

All gifts to St. Stephen’s are welcome and needed!

None of the above should be viewed as tax advice! For accurate information regarding the tax impact of any charitable contribution, please contact your tax advisor.
Christian practice—at any rate in the Episcopal Church—includes singing and playing music. We are, to borrow Dom Gregory Dix’s language, “ceremonious” rather than “puritan” about worship. We find it “good to sing praises unto our God” (Psalm 147); we praise God “with stringed instruments and organ” (Psalm 150). And St. Luke’s account of Christ’s birth tells us of a paradigmatic anthem, the Angels’ Song, which is to be repeated and imitated by us. And we mark and celebrate the season of Advent with a series of magnificent hymns and a rich heritage of liturgical music, anthems, and motets. For example, in Luke we read three passages which have been set to great music: Ave Maria (Luke 1:28); Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55); and Benedictus Dominus Deus (Luke 1:68-79). Advent lessons and collects and poetry are sources of other music we’ll listen to.

An historic Biblical text for the First Sunday in Advent is Matthew 21:9. It includes the phrase “Hosanna to the Son of David.” These words have been set to music by Orlando Gibbons. We will listen to it. And the 17th-century preacher Mark Frank delivered a sermon on this verse. We duplicated this sermon, as well as Mark Frank’s sermon for the Third Sunday in Advent, on which, many centuries later, we meet. Copies of these two sermons are on the back table.

Transitions in the Earliest Church

Gunnar Urang

Study helps provided for a recent adult education series centered on experiences of transition among first-century followers of Christ. One of those readings presented phrases of a letter from a Council meeting in Jerusalem (Acts chapter 15) addressing concerns of belief and practice confronting Gentile converts to a faith community previously composed of Jesus-affirming Jewish believers.

Simon Peter, a Jewish leader among those coming to this Way, has been challenged by a gathering in the household of a non-Jewish centurion named Cornelius—(Peter could not even have been present there without incurring defilement)—a gathering, at the same time, in which Peter’s witness to salvation through Jesus the Christ brought about conversion to this new faith and particular indications (to Peter and his companions) in signs betokening a transformation taken to be the work of God in the person of the “Holy Spirit.”

Meanwhile, another emissary of this same new faith, Saul of Tarsus, on various preaching missions, has witnessed similar conversions to the way of Christ (with comparable signs of transcendent power at work).

The question before the Council: Do these happenings constitute another way of being good Jewish followers of Jesus—in which case, are the converts obliged or not to incorporate Jewish ritual practice, including specific strict dietary provisions? Or, as Peter asks, in a speech before the Council, should we assume that their salvation comes (as it does for Peter and Paul) “through the grace of the Lord Jesus” without the adoption of Jewish religiosity as such?

The decision of the Council, of course, follows the lead of Peter and Paul and the head of the Jerusalem church, James—so that the letter to be circulated to new converts begins “It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us . . . .”

Why not merely “It has seemed good to us . . . .” though? Earlier chapters of this book (by the person who composed also the third Gospel, identified by tradition as Luke) tell us why: Again and again, from Luke, the witness has been to a special manifestation of the presence and power of God—more particularly, as revealed in the “Holy Spirit.”

That is true for us as well—here, now—and it would be our hope and trust that when members of our “council” dispatch a letter to someone felt to be, by decision-makers here and a decider “there,” the person to take up ordained leadership in the parish of St. Stephen’s, our letter will declare, one way or another, “It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us . . . .”
I’m introducing this month’s interviewee with a couple of Coincidental Clues; she grew up in Middlebury (Connecticut!), and she went to church for a time at St. Stephen’s (in Forrest, VA!). You would probably need to know something about her and her spouse to put the clues together, but if you did you might come up with Dee Hodges...a longtime resident of the area, a convert from the Catholic church to our Episcopal church, and now very much a fixture in our parish and in the community. And while it’s certainly possible to talk about Dee without bringing her family into the narrative, so much of Dee’s story is about her partnership with Barney’s orchard business, and their kids, and their affection for community performing arts – truly a ‘family affair’.

Dee did grow up in Connecticut, even attending an Episcopal High School, but the fun part of her story begins with her time in NYC, as a secretary in an advertising agency. She recalls dating ‘guys in grey flannel suits’ whom she met at the agency, but thinking all along that she was looking for someone more down-to-earth...a farmer, for example. Lo and behold, a mutual friend connected her to an aspiring actor/singer from Virginia named Barney. Fast forward to a wedding in NY, and beginning a family while Barney pursued his dream of a Broadway career.

Their first two kids were born in the city, but the bright lights finally lost out to a more ‘hands-on’ career back on the farm near Forrest, VA. The family raised apples, among other things, but the thing Dee remembers most about her time there was going to church and seeing a ‘choir full of Hodges’ in the choir loft. Dee was not a singer or instrumentalist, but music was central to the Hodges’ family and it became something she loved. Their time in Virginia ended when they made the big move to Vermont in 1970.

The Hodges moved to a house on Weybridge St, and Barney found work managing Jackson Orchard. Here again, Dee found a new interest in the care and propagation of apple trees. Pruning, grafting, and all of the tasks that go into a successful orchard became fun family activities for her. At the same time she was a bit restless, looking for a new professional challenge, and so in 1982 started at Antioch College in Keene, NH pursuing an MS in Counseling Psychology. As part of that work she interned at CSAC – familiar to many of you – and eventually worked for 18 yrs as a guidance counselor at Mary Hogan. Dee has been involved with youth in other ways, including a stint at the Teen Center, and she is really excited about the evolving collaboration between St. Stephen’s and this group. Her community involvement also involves a stint on the board of Habitat, about 8 years, and this is a good segue to another element of Dee’s life...

Many of us are shy talking about our spiritual life...Dee, not so much. Dee left the Roman Catholic church to join St. Stephen’s around the time of Terry’s arrival, and has slowly come to feel part of the parish. Currently she enjoys the Adult Ed curriculum and the Meditation group, but also points to a very specific time recently when she came to appreciate - and recognize - her spiritual life at St. Stephen’s. She had been asked to do a Ministry Moment in support of the Stewardship Campaign, and spoke about her work with Habitat. Something about verbalizing an outreach ministry in front of her fellow parishioners made her very aware of the presence of God within her – a notion that she had often discussed with her Mennonite son-in-law. God in heart she calls it. In any event, Dee had clearly been an ‘outreacher’ in many ways, both temporal and spiritual, and continues in that vein today. She talked about the Episcopal church they attend when vacationing in Tucson, and has some pretty strong feelings about what makes that church and its pastor so dynamic and supportive. Passionate, creative, progressive...words she uses to talk about that church and pastor but also pretty good descriptors for Dee herself.

Even if you read this entire article, there is still a lot more to know and respect about Dee’s life – so next time you have the chance, ask her about her tennis game...or the Broadway-worthy story of hers and Barney’s courtship (‘he wooed me with his voice’!)...or her family...or how to graft an apple scion. Dee is a quiet and humble person with a lot to say, and you would do well to get to know her better.
FINANCIAL NOTES FROM YOUR TREASURER

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
Operating Actual Compared to Budget
January through October 2018

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Selected balances from Statement of Financial Position (aka Balance Sheet) as of October 31, 2018

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‘Tis the Season...with much for your treasurer to do by the end of the year.

As you can see, St. Stephen’s was a bit behind in our giving at the end of October. The November numbers are pending Finance Committee and Vestry review so are not included in this report; there was an approximate $2,000 improvement by the end of November. At this particular time of year, our financial numbers are not unusual, especially since we are in a transition period. The Finance Committee and Vestry are working on financial plans for the future that will be presented at the January Annual Meeting.

December is our most important month for giving, and we often catch up by the end of the year. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to complete their giving goals for the year and to give generously so that we can begin 2019 with confidence.

As always, if you have questions or topics you’d like to discuss, or if you’d like more financial details, please get in touch: Barbara.stratton@comcast.net, 802-758-9280, or we could chat at coffee hour.
St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church invites you to

The Christmas Pageant

Monday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Pageant & Communion Service

Everyone is welcome. All children are invited and encouraged to come downstairs to the Parish Hall to get a costume and join in the Pageant. Enjoy the carols, scripture, and live animals!

Children: bring a friend, play a part (shepherd, king, angel, principal character) and make the Christmas Story your own.

Costume closet opens at 3:30 p.m.

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church invites you to join us for a

Gentle Christmas Service

Saturday, December 22 at 11:00 a.m.

A gentle Christmas service for the community.

Christmas is not always a joyful time. For those of us who are dealing with illness, loss, or just get tired of too much noise and gaiety, Christmas can be a daunting season.

Still, it is a time of celebration—God has come to dwell among us!

Communion Service followed by a soup lunch, in the Parish Hall.

Advent Concert Series

December 13 at 7:30 p.m. Festival of Saint Lucia
December 20 at 12:15 p.m. Program to be announced
St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
invites you to join us!

Christmas Service
2018 Schedule

Dec. 13  Sankta Lucia Festival at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 22  A Gentle Christmas for the Community at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. A service for those whom the Christmas Season may be difficult. Communion Service followed by a soup lunch.

Dec. 23  Advent IV Holy Communion at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 24  Christmas Pageant & Communion Service at 4:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. All children are invited & encouraged to come downstairs to the Parish Hall to get a costume and play a part in the Pageant.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 9:00 p.m.

Dec. 25  Christmas Communion Service at 10:00 a.m. Procession of the Three Kings begins

Dec. 30  A Celebration of Christmas in Word and Music at 10:00 a.m.

Growing in God’s Love, Serving Christ in All People

3 Main Street on the Green  •  Middlebury, Vermont 05753
802.388.7200  •  www.ststephensmidd.org  •  ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com