March 27, 2020

St. Stephen's Herald

BRIEFLY NOTED

• As we practice social distancing, we will gather online for Morning Prayer this Sunday. See connection instructions and download a PDF version of the rite below.

• Join me online Tuesday mornings for Reflections bible study. Register below.

• Join me online weekdays at 8am for Morning Devotional and a brief period of fellowship. Register below.
Military Honors for Bob Baker

I grabbed a quick video of the U.S. Army honor guard as they honored our beloved Bob just before our committal service this afternoon.

A NOTE FROM CRAIG

Being Made New in the Attitude of Your Mind

This morning, in my daily devotional, one theme stood out. Several scriptures expressed it, but they all evoked for me the good news of Revelation 21:5, "And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”"

What a blessing it has been to see how well our little band of the faithful has adapted to worshipping in a new way. Two weeks ago, most of us had never even heard of Zoom. This, most of our regulars were present for online worship via Zoom and several of you pursued the other work of the church via Zoom. Instead of resisting change, we are asking how these new tools might enrich our lives in Christ even more. It's been an inspiration to us transition in this way.

Today, we committed to the earth the body of our beloved Bob Baker, a patriarch of the congregation. Our life will be different without his pointed questions and easy sense of humor. We give thanks today for the many ways God blessed our common life through Bob, and look forward to his memorial service once the time is right for us to return to familiar ways.

Prayers of thanksgiving also ascend for the transition we are making in our relationship. I am grateful for the call to be your new rector, and joyful at the prospect of walking the Way of Love with you for next several years.

There is so much newness. There is more to come. It can be disconcerting to be shaped in new ways, to let go of old ways of being and forced to adapt to the new. Yet God is making "a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert". "Do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19).

As we experience together all these transitions, let's remind one another as needed that the reality of the universe is resurrection. Every Sunday is Resurrection Sunday. Easter is
on its way. I can’t wait to see what God has in store for us in just a few more weeks.

God’s richest blessings,
Craig Uffman, Rector
✉ craig@ststephensrochester.org  ☎ 585.532.5535

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WORSHIP NEWS

Morning Prayer Online!

On Sundays in Lent, we will gather online for Morning Prayer at 10a.m. on Sundays. Here’s how you prepare:

First, download the Morning Prayer leaflet by clicking here now. Print if you desire, or perhaps view it online during our gathering.

Second, below are the credentials for joining the Zoom meeting. Click on the URL below or copy and paste it into your browser. You can also select Join Meeting using the Zoom app and input the Meeting ID below. Either way will enable you to join the meeting once it begins. If you can’t join the video feed, you can dial-on at the telephone number below and enter the meeting ID when prompted.

Join Zoom Meeting

URL:  https://zoom.us/j/609038197
Meeting ID: 609.038.197

Dial-in via telephone
+1 646.558.8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 609.038.197

Third, if you are new to Zoom, familiarize yourself with the tool before Sunday morning by viewing this video tutorial.

If you need further help, please text me before 6pm Saturday at 585.348.8543.
FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Morning Devotional

It’s a blessing to have a few of you join me for Morning Devotional on Zoom! We meet online on weekdays at 8:30 a.m. for a brief morning devotion and fellowship time using Sarah Young’s Jesus Always. No need to buy the book, but registration is required so we know to expect you. Register now for:
https://zoom.us/meeting/regist...

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Register now!

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Reflections Bible Study

Join Craig weekly Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for fellowship and learning time grounded in Scripture. We’ll go more in-depth into the coming Sunday’s gospel selection to gain greater insight and apply it to your life. No preparation is needed but one-time registration is required to let us know to expect you.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Register now!

WATCHCARE NEWS
Prayer List

We pray for those of our community who have sickness of mind, body, or spirit and all those who care for them: Joyce, Dave Morse, Bob Baker, Al & Joan Gardner, Anne Hallman, the Woodward family, Jason Mills, Jessica Brooks & family, Stella Wang, Terry Carney, Elsie Glendenning, Rose, Shelia Morse, Doris Schrader, Tom Bohrer, Karen Witkowicz, Debbie Bonomo, Elizabeth Robinson, and Virginia Rockwell.

Those serving in our armed forces: Joseph Scheidt & Jason Brown.

Those celebrating Birthdays:

- 3/31 Karen Kirkey

Help Wanted

Eucharistic Visitors are lay persons authorized to take the consecrated elements to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration of the Eucharist. It's easy and joyful work. I ask all of our regulars prayerfully to consider becoming a visitor so we can set up a sustainable visitation rotation when members are unable to participate for a long period, as is the current case with Bob Baker. Let me know and I will set up training and licensing ASAP.

Eucharistic Ministers are lay persons authorized to administer the consecrated elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. It's simple work, and we need at least two more to support our congregation. Please see me for training and licensing so you can pitch in right away.

Watchcare Coordinator - is a lay person with strong organizational skills and the gifts of compassion and hospitality who works with the priest to coordinate our congregational response to significant events in the lives of parishioners such as bereavement, job loss, marriage, etc. The goal is to achieve consistently high quality by creating replicable processes initiated by the Watchcare Coordinator at such times, calling Watchcare teams into action when needed to offer hospitality and care to members and their families. Please pray that someone will step up to fill this role. It will make a big difference in our common life.
FOCUS ON MISSION

Community Feasts Update

Shelter in place requirements have shifted my priorities and the project schedule for Community Feasts. This week, the focus has been on building the digital architecture for the Community Feasts learning community and web site. Both projects are in-process. Eager to start meeting with prospective team members again!

TREASURER’S REPORT

Please Mail Your Tithes

While we fast from our Eucharistic gatherings as wait out this pandemic, please mail your alms and tithes to our parish office: St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, ATTN: Treasurer, 350 Chili Avenue, Rochester, NY 14611.

Pledge Envelopes are all rubber-stamped with the Church address for a mail-in option; you may wish to take advantage of this feature.

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