

Touchstone

Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday: March 28

Sunday of the Passion

8 & 10 AM with Choir

Procession with palms, Eucharist, Reading of Luke's Passion

Children's Godly Play "Mystery Walk" at 10 AM
(Child Care at 9 AM)

Maundy Thursday: April 1

7:30 PM Choral Eucharist, with washing of the feet and *agape* meal

Good Friday: April 2

12 Noon Music Meditation with John Karl Hirten, organ

12:30-2 PM Service for Good Friday: Readings, Sermon, Prayer, Communion

The Great Vigil of Easter: April 3

6:00 PM Lighting of the New Fire, Baptisms, Stories of Salvation, First Eucharist of Easter, Champagne Reception

Easter: April 4

8 & 10 AM with Choir
(Child Care at 9 AM)

Staff, Vestry & Ministry Contacts	2
Rector's Word	3
Pledge Update Youth Minister Report	4
Emergency Shelter Update	5
Background of Holy Week	6
Upcoming Events	7

Vacation Bible School

Registration has begun for our popular **Vacation Bible School.**

This year's theme is High Seas Adventure!!

The fun takes place **Mon.-Fri., June 21-25 from 9 am until noon.**

You can sign up on Sundays or contact Janet Ward (518-8936) and we'll send you the forms. Volunteers & counselors sought!



Easter will be here before you know it!

Mark your calendars to join us for our wonderful Holy Week services, starting with **Palm Sunday** on March 28. Our **Maundy Thursday** Eucharist on April 1 at 7:30 is a truly different type of worship service, quiet and anticipatory, but also featuring an Agape meal provided by the St. Stephen's Choir. The **Good Friday** liturgy (April 2 at Noon) is stark and reflective, while the **Easter Vigil** (April 3 at 6 PM) is rich in its historic symbolism, biblical readings and baptisms, not to mention a great party at the end (with champagne!). Consider coming to one or all of these wonderful offerings.

(For more about Holy Week and Easter, see John's article beginning on p. 6!)



St. Stephen's Church
Phone: 415-435-4501
Fax: 415-435-2259
www.ststephenschurch.org

ST. STEPHEN'S STAFF

The Rev. James S. Ward, *Rector*
435-4501 Ext. 11, jimward@ststephenschurch.org

The Rev. Elaine Reichert, *Associate Priest*
472-6143 g.r-elaine@comcast.net

Rachael Pryor, *Interim Youth Minister*
435-4501 Ext. 12, rachaelststephens@gmail.com

Annette Rankin, *Student Deacon*

John Karl Hirten, *Director of Parish Music*
435-4501 Ext. 17, johnkhirten@ststephenschurch.org

Betsy Menzel, *Bookkeeping and Accounts*
435-4501 Ext. 15, betsy@ststephenschurch.org

Anne Brown, *Events Coordinator*
717-3402 kitchen@ststephenschurch.org

Vickie Duran, *Nursery Coordinator*
572-9111 vickieduran1019@yahoo.com

Barbara Berling, *Altar Guild Coordinator*
435-4501 Ext. 46 berling11@gmail.com

Linda Benson, *Accounting Consultant*
435-4501 Ext. 23 linda@ststephenschurch.org

American Bach Soloists, *Artists in Residence*
 www.americanbach.org

ST. STEPHEN'S VESTRY

Christine Brent (383-7445) brentfamily@gmail.com
John Brooks (383-5967) johnbrooks@comcast.net
Anna "Missy" Leathers (389-1566) avleathers@earthlink.net
Stafford Matthews (435-8210)
Nancy Forster (789-9085) midpacific@igc.org
David Irmer (435-0218) mcirmer@aol.com
Bob McCaskill (435-3695) bob@mccaskill.net
Andra Nirenbarski (789-0717) andra.martens@comcast.net
Bill Post (789-1817)
Mona Helen Renney (435-9443) mhrenney@yahoo.com
Valerie Bergmann (435-8185) valberg101@att.net
Pam Bonnie (381-0974) pambonnie@comcast.net

ST. STEPHENS MINISTRIES **ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, AND SMALL GROUPS**

Contact the person indicated to get involved!

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Contemplative Prayer Ann Likas (435-1389)
Benedictine Spirituality Jim Ward (435-4501 x11)
Baptism Jim Ward (435-4501 x11)
Confirmation Rachael Pryor (435-4501 x 12)
Sunday School Rachael Pryor (435-4501 x 12)

SOCIAL GROUPS

Couples Group Jim Ward (435-4501 x11)
Anasazi Group (Seniors Group) Lois Cannady (435-1780)
Middle School Group Rachael Pryor (435-4501 x 12)
High School Group Rachael Pryor (435-4501 x 12)
Men's Group Jan Gullett (789-5308)

SERVICE

Serving Meals at Westminster Presbyterian
 Cindy Brown (435-1894)

Sunday Coalition Lunch Anne Brown (435-4501, x 14)

Serving Meals at Homeward Bound Mill Street Center
 Ann Green-McComish (435-9992) & Anne Brown (717-3402)

Tiburon Thrift Shop June Campbell (789-8940)

Rebuilding Together Bill Brinkman (435-4035)

Women's Kitting Ministry Elaine Reichert (472-6143)

Siempre Unidos/ Honduras AIDS Project
 Denise Main (383-8248) denise@siempreunidos.org

Bridge the Gap Tutoring Janet Ward (381-8568)

Camp Create Anne Brown (434-4501 x 14)

Highschool Workcamp Rachael Pryor (434-4501 x 12)

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Acolytes Jo Ann Haseltine, Verger (381-4706)

Altar Guild Barbara Berling (435-4352)

Lay Eucharistic Ministers Jim Ward (435-4501 x11)

Lay Readers John Karl Hirten (435-4501 x17)

Church Ushers John Karl Hirten (435-4501 x17)

Intercessors Molly Arthur (435-4941)

Adult Choir John Karl Hirten (435-4501 x17)

Children's Choir John Karl Hirten (435-4501 x17)

The Rector's Word.....

A New Day: Nurturing Families and Individuals of all ages

*“St. Stephen’s Church is a community of faith called to express the love of God by
(3) nurturing families and individuals of all ages.”*



This third bullet point of our Mission Statement is under considerable pressure even as it appears to be more and more a cause of concern due to the economic adjustments forced on all of us by the current recession. Many of our expectations and plans of only a few years ago have died and we are like Mary gazing into the empty tomb, or the two disciples walking away from Jerusalem on their way to Emmaus, dejectedly wondering what is next. Let me try to report on some emerging areas of our life together to see what wisdom you might have for their development in the future.

Children and Young Families: We are blessed with a wonderful children’s ministry. With the ordination of Sylvia Miller-Mutia to the transitional diaconate on June 5 at the Cathedral (she’ll be ordained a priest, God willing, in December), we mark a moment of standing at a prominent place looking off into the future of our youth and children’s ministry, grateful for all she and so many others have done to bring us to this place.

Tim Kelly has taken on the task of putting together a Youth and Children’s ministry committee to discern our direction. Rachael Pryor has helped us to focus on particular areas of strength and challenge: we have a fine Sunday School program featuring Godly Play for Preschool through Elementary, although we are sensitive as is everyone who have made use of G/P that it doesn’t translate as well with kids past third or fourth grade. We are working on an exciting new direction for older grades featuring digital film making. Our confirmation class punctuates the middle school years quite well; in addition a new bell choir under direction of John Hirten has formed with help from Mimi Ogden specifically for 6th and 7th graders. Work Camp and Vacation Bible School are in active preparation for High School age. Camp Create is coming together with a broader support system involving other churches in Marin.

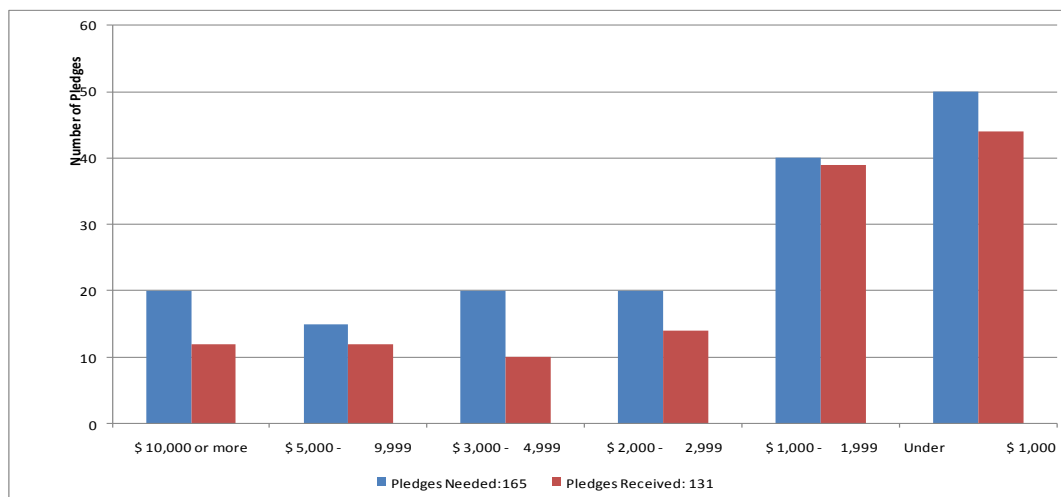
With Rachael who had a temporary charge, to be reconsidered as part of a larger search process, looking to give birth to her first child in April, we have welcomed Willie Van Doren who is also serving Church of Our Savior, Mill Valley, as coordinator of our middle and high school programs and to step in more broadly when Rachael goes on leave. Though Willie, who also is a Kaplan SAT teacher, is not ordained he has an M.Div. degree from Harvard Divinity School. We hope with him in place some youth activities involving the young people of two or more congregations might also emerge.

Older Adults: Our Anasazi group continues to thrive under the leadership of Lois Cannady and Zoila Schoenbrun. In addition, we have invited Senior Access of Marin to partner with us in opening a social activity program downstairs our large classroom for frail adults in our community struggling with memory loss and for respite for their caregivers. The challenge is to broaden this partnership to include organizations in the community like other congregations, the library, the fire department, and parks and recreation department so this offering can become well known and attract families who don’t even know how they could benefit from such an “oasis” since they don’t know it exists and what nurture their older loved ones could enjoy from such an activity.

The New Day inaugurated at Easter radically changes the field in which we normally live our lives and see our selves. As we begin to locate familiar landmarks and recognize new and old friends in the growing light of dawn, the challenge for us is to let go of our familiar ways of relating and risk new involvement with new friends who can help us see together new possibilities to nurture one another in the deathless life of the resurrection.

Jim Ward +

2010 Pledge Update



As you can see from the chart above, we still have a significant shortfall in our 2010 pledges.

We will be unable to continue many of our youth, music and outreach programs in 2010 without a major increase in our level of pledges.

Last year just 11 families provided over 40% of our pledge revenue.

Please help our Vestry as they work hard to meet our mission while remaining fiscally responsible.

Pledge cards are available in the Narthex and the Foyer and can be returned by mail or handed to any staff member.

The Beloved Community : Exploring a Lenten Experience with Children & Teens

- report from the Interim Youth Minister, Rachael Pryor -

As Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, preparing to begin his ministry of sharing the Good News throughout the land, the testing and temptation he experienced brought him to a point of clarity about his purpose. St. Stephen's is also on a journey toward clarity about the way in which this community can best welcome, nurture, and engage children and teens in a meaningful spiritual life. Perhaps our "wilderness" is the culture we live in, a culture that grows increasingly secular, tempting us away from the commitment of a church community, and testing our assumptions about faith formation for the next generation.

Over the past month, we have had a variety of opportunities to develop our offerings for children and teens at St. Stephen's, as a part of the community's Lenten Journey. In the Godly Play program, St. Stephen's staff and many parent volunteers have renewed a commitment to faithfully following Safe Church practices. A few simple steps, like having two adults for every classroom or event, and collecting important medical information, go a long way toward creating a better environment for children of all ages. Many thanks to those who have already provided this information; as well as to those who have volunteered to support our Sunday morning classroom experience. We are always looking for more volunteers to share in this lay ministry opportunity.

Lent has been a time of intense preparation for the Confirmation Class of 2010. Each week, they have gathered on Wednesday for the Lenten Dinners. In the classes that follow, they have considered the questions from our Affirmation of Baptism, and discussed how these commitments play out in real life. They will continue to prepare for Confirmation through Holy Week, especially by participating in the Maundy Thursday and Easter Vigil services. Confirmation activities will resume again in May. All are invited to celebrate the conclusion of our local program on Pentecost (May 23), and to attend the service of Confirmation at Grace Cathedral on June 12.

Where do we go from here? The Marin Emergency Shelter: An Update

The Marin Emergency Shelter effort ends March 31st. St. Stephen's last time to serve is this Monday evening, serving dinner at Christ Church North Bay in Novato. Here is a message from Chris Highland, the director of the shelter for the last 4 months. For a listing of individual shelter guests and their employment and housing goals, see the shelter webpage: <http://marinshelter.wordpress.com/>; or connect with Anne Brown (kitchen@ststephenschurch.org).

April... and Beyond...

- by Chris Highland

Many in the host and support congregations (and some guests!) are already asking the right questions about "What's Next?" after the shelter closes. **After March 31st, 50 more people will be sleeping outside again.** The lifeboat will come ashore and our guests—our fellow passengers—will disembark; they will be on their own, searching for refuge and a safe place to sleep—a place to belong.

The beauty of this model of sheltering is the relationships that grow as people are welcomed with warm hospitality, a shared meal, a safe and quiet place to sleep each night. Yet, **once homelessness has a face and name, once a person has been a regular guest in one's community home, there may be no going back.** The voyage has already been shared. Compassion has been the light at every port, and humanity has been our brief campsite.

So, we ask and ask rightly: **What is Next? Where will our new friends go?** What will they do? Can we let them go back to the dangerous and uncertain life of sleeping (illegally) under bridges, in dark alleyways, in their cars, in the woods? Will they once again be out of sight and out of mind? Will we ever be able to put each woman, each man, out of our mind? Wouldn't this drive us all *out of our minds*?

Listening to our guests and learning from their direct experience with homesearching **we can begin to build realistic strategies** for the next steps as the journey continues. Is another shelter, permanent or temporary, the answer? Do we need another lifeboat? Is a "cruise ship" any better? Or are there islands of refuge where people can find something to call "home?"

This will be **the last year the little lifeboat sails the seas of sheltering** (and my last as director). Hundreds, maybe thousands, of our neighbors are awaiting real solutions, not simply lifeboats, cruise ships, rest stops, tents, or year after year of endless meetings with continual talking among the "leaders." People stand waiting for more than the uncertainty of a door that may unlock, a floor that may open.

Here, on these pages, we can explore some of the **creative housing solutions** that may be possible for Marin. Together, we may begin to discover that the voyage of the lifeboat called Emergency Shelter does not end on March 31st—the **Lifeboat is Marin, or the Earth itself**, our common home. **We are all passengers and crew**, sailing on with a hull of hope, catching the winds of energy and cooperation that create community yet to be mapped and explored.

Cast off! Let the waves of ideas begin!

Wild Ideas

1. Your congregation "sponsors" one, two or a family (building on respectful relationships, making agreements with clear guidelines and goals, etc)
2. Your congregation keeps a list of available rooms or apartments of members for specific referrals from St. Vincents and other agencies (clear rules are established with agreements; supportive options are required such as case workers, job search, group meetings, etc)
3. A coalition of congregations operates a "rooming house," a motel or apartment building
4. A consortium of communities puts MCF Affordable Housing Money (www.marincf.org) to work creating realistic housing
5. A "Wet" Shelter (allowing drinkers) is made viable
6. [Housing First](http://www.desc.org/supportive_housing.html) (a model program in Seattle : http://www.desc.org/supportive_housing.html)
7. Live-in care positions working for older people or persons with disabilities
8. Live-in caretaking, janitorial or security positions in congregations or with members

The Background of Holy Week

In Latin, “Holy Week” (the last week of Lent before Easter) is known as “*Hebdomada Maior*,” or “Great Week.” The earliest clues about when the custom of marking this week began can be found in the *Apostolic Constitutions*, dating from the latter half of the 3rd Century. In this collection by disparate early Christian writers of how Christians should worship at the time, abstinence from meat was commanded, as was total fasting on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It was even recommended that all public business transactions be suspended during the week.

In our day, it is difficult enough to get people to acknowledge that the week even *exists*, let alone to do anything different with their lives during that time. At least, in our tradition, we do not require anything as drastic as fasting for two days (although we do suggest that it’s not a bad practice to do without *something* during the Lenten season). But, here at St. Stephen’s, we do provide special services during that week for those who want to enrich their Lenten and Easter experience.

The Sunday of the Passion (or “Palm Sunday” as it is more generally known, is when we celebrate Jesus Christ’s re-entry into Jerusalem just days before he was arrested by the chief priests and the city elders. It is an intentionally ironic celebration, because tradition holds that many of the same people who cut down branches from trees to lay at Jesus’ feet were also the ones who would later call for his crucifixion or betray him as did his closest friends. Hence, this day is fraught with contradictions and calls into question our own muted witness to Christ’s death.

There’s an interesting side note to this feast day. Tradition also holds that it wasn’t simply palm branches that were strewn on the road in front of Jesus’ procession, but also branches from olive trees, as well as garments. The palm branch signifies triumph over death and the olive branch signifies spiritual anointing, while the garments can be thought of as a foreshadowing of Jesus being “newly clothed” after his resurrection. It is the palm branch, burned to ash, that is imposed on our heads on Ash Wednesday, to remind us of our mortality, and it is oil, from olives, that is anointed on our heads to remind us of baptism. Also, in baptism we are presented with white garments as a symbol of new birth. Therefore Palm Sunday is a kind of closing of the great circle of Jesus’ life and death, mirroring our own, and it prepares us for the great day of resurrection, Easter. The music and the readings all reflect these different aspects of the day.

“Maundy” Thursday (also known as Holy Thursday) is the day when Christians celebrate the first Eucharist, the so-called “Last Supper” that Jesus ate with his followers before he was arrested by the local authorities and led off, eventually, to his death. John’s Gospel tells us that, before they ate, Jesus poured water into a basin and washed the feet of his followers, a sign of great respect in that culture. Then he commanded his followers to go out into the world and do the same. After that, Jesus gave thanks to God and broke bread, sharing it with his friends.

One tradition says that the word “Maundy” is derived through Middle English, and Old French *mandé*, from the Latin *mandatum*, the first word of the phrase “*Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos*” (“I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you,” the statement by Jesus in the John 13:34). These two powerful traditions are again reflected in the music and liturgical action at the Maundy Thursday service, when members of our Confirmation class wash the feet of all present, followed later by a light meal (with wine) provided by the St. Stephen’s Choir.

The **Good Friday** service is spare and constructed in four parts. The first is the Liturgy of the Word, featuring the St. Matthew Passion, followed by a sermon. The second are the solemn “collects” or prayers of the people, in which we pray for our leaders, our fellow Christians, and those who do not believe in Christianity. The a large cross is brought into the center of the sanctuary, during which time people are invited to reflect and pray, or even to come up to the cross and touch it. This action can bring the events of 2000 years ago into immediate focus for us. Finally, communion is distributed, the elements of which were consecrated the day before.. Preceding this service, John Karl Hirten provides a half-hour of meditative music on the organ.

The **Easter Vigil**, also called the “Paschal Vigil” or the “Great Vigil of Easter,” is the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. Historically, it is during this service that people are baptized and that adult catechumens are received into full communion with the Church.

...continues on p. 6

...continued from p. 6

It can be held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day—ours takes place at 6 PM, barely dusk—but, no matter when it takes place, it is considered to be the first celebration of Easter Day.

In addition to baptisms, we share stories about the salvation of God's people (such as Creation, the Great Flood, the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt) and we celebrate a lively choral eucharist, complete with sparkling altar wine and a wonderful post eucharistic celebration.

We hope that this little explanation of this wonderful week will spur your curiosity and that you will join us for one or all of these celebrations.

Bulletin Board

The Westminster Presbyterian Hot Lunch

The program feeds hungry people every Thur.; the fourth Thur. of each month is staffed by St. Stephen's. We have a dedicated team that works in groups of five once each quarter. If you are looking for a meaningful way to contribute right in our own community, we are looking for volunteers to help from 11AM to 1 PM. For more information, please contact Cindy Brown at 435-1894.

Mill Street Homeward Bound

St. Stephen's has participated in the preparation of meals for the Mill St. Shelter for more than 12 years. It is our longest ongoing outreach program. We provide a cooked dinner and breakfast supplies for about 40 residents the 2nd Thursday of every month. You can help by volunteering to provide a casserole, salad or dessert one day a month—call Ann Green at 435-9992 or Anne Brown at 717-3402.

Coalition Lunch

Hot lunches for the hungry are provided each Sunday of the month at St. Stephen's while Kol Shofar is under renovation. The third Sunday of each month St. Stephen's provides the food; other church cover the other weeks. Families find this a great way to volunteer together for a very worthwhile cause. For more info on getting involved in this ministry, please contact Anne Brown at 717-3402.

We welcome your submission of articles, announcements, volunteer opportunities, and thank-yous for inclusion in St. Stephen's monthly newsletter, the *Touchstone*.

Deadline for the next issue is March 20, 2010.

Email: rachael@ststephenschurch.org.

Mark "Touchstone" in the memo line.

Upcoming Events

American Bach Soloists' Final Concert of the Season takes place Friday, April 16, at 8 PM.

Two of Bach's most brilliant concertos will feature violinist Johanna Novom (winner of ABS' 2008 Young Artists Competition) and harpsichordist Corey Jamason. And Mary Wilson, whose exquisite standing-ovation performances with ABS are unforgettable, will perform Handel's delightful solo cantata, "Delirio amoroso," about a lover's delirium, and Vivaldi's extraordinarily pyrotechnical motet for soprano, "In furore iustissimae irae." For tickets, call 415-621-7900 or visit www.americanbach.org.

MARCH

March 28-Palm Sunday

March 28-Passover Seder following 10:00 service

APRIL

April 1-Maundy Thursday

April 2-Good Friday

April 4-Easter

April 8-Mill Street Homeward Bound

April 16-American Bach Soloists Concert

April 18-Southern Marin Coalition Lunch

April 22-Westminster Presbyterian lunch program

OUR MISSION

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
is a community of faith
called to express God's love in our life
and worship together by:

- Exploring and fostering Spiritual Growth
- Nurturing families and individuals of all ages
- Addressing environmental and social concerns.
- Celebrating through liturgy, music and the arts.



St. Stephen's Church
3 Bayview Ave.
PO Box 97
Belvedere, CA 94920

Phone: 415-435-4501
Fax: 415-435-2259
www.ststephenschurch.org

*“One Community,
Countless Journeys”*

We're on the web!
www.ststephenschurch.org

Camp Create 2010: August 2-6 Mama Panya's Pancakes – Harambee!



“Mama Panya's Pancakes” by Mary & Rich Chamberlin, is a Kenyan story of a boy and his mother going to market to buy ingredients for pancakes. While Mama Panya is being careful with her coins, her gregarious son Adika is inviting everyone they meet on the way to come to a pancake dinner. In the end, Adika proves the value of connection and generosity by “staying one step ahead” of his mother, and their guests help to provide “enough and a little bit more” – for a wonderful party had by all. “Harambee!” the Kenyan motto for “pulling together”, is a word we'll hear a lot this summer!

Camp Create is a week-long summer day camp for children ages 6-11 and its vision is to nourish Creativity, Connection, and Community. At Camp Create children work with visionary professional artists and inspiring teen counselors to explore and interpret a transformational story through the arts. The art forms this year will be: painting, mosaics, percussion, vocal music, and dance, and will feature a large group weaving project, as well as a Native American “Three Sisters” garden (corn, beans, and squash) as artistic inspiration for cooperation and collaboration. The camp culminates in a Friday evening exhibit and performance of the children's work for family, friends, and community members. *Camper registration begins April 5 — forms available in the foyer beginning Easter Day!*

Would you like to get involved?

Lots of volunteers are needed! Please contact Anne Brown: kitchen@ststephenschurch.org

Would you like to provide financial support?

Started in 1999 as St. Stephen's “Spirituality and the Arts Camp”, Camp Create is a self-sufficient entity. The majority of our campers are on scholarship, and we depend on the generosity of our Camp Create Friends for financial support. Here are some ways to help:

- \$250** sends one Camper to Camp Create for a week, including lunch and transportation
- \$25** provides a week of lunches for one camper
- \$400** pays for one day of Junior Director leadership training
- \$1,800** sponsors one experienced, visionary Artist (and supplies) for a week of camp!
- \$2,000** pays for one week of bus transportation for all campers!

All donations are gratefully accepted. Please make checks payable to St. Stephen's Church and mark “Camp Create” on the memo line.