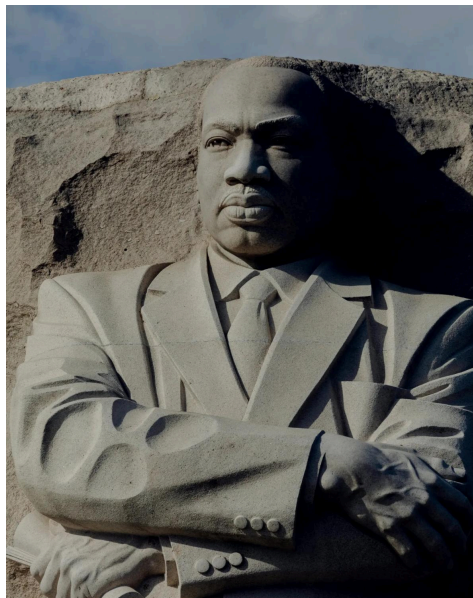


January 16, 2026

Dear Friends,

We are living in a time of division, injustice, and confusion, when institutions like the military and homeland security are turned on the people they are meant to protect. There is much anger, grief, and disbelief over the tragic killing of Renee Good -- our hearts are heavy as we pray for the repose of her soul, comfort for her family, and for the better angels of those in power to remember that we are not enemies, but friends.



Many in our community are struggling to reconcile our leaders' values and actions with the Gospel's call to reconciliation, justice, and mercy. **Our baptismal covenant provides moral clarity** for how we are to live: strive for justice and peace, love our neighbor, respect the dignity of every human being, and seek and serve Christ in all people.

We especially remember this weekend the example of the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, who during a time of escalating violence wrote:

*It is evil we are seeking to defeat, not the persons victimized by evil. . . . The tension is at bottom between justice and injustice, between the forces of light and the forces of darkness. . . . **At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love.** . . . To retaliate with hate and bitterness would do nothing but intensify the hate in the world.*

*With patient and firm determination we will press on until every valley of despair is exalted to new peaks of hope, until every mountain of pride and irrationality is made low by the leveling process of humility and compassion; until **the rough places of injustice are transformed** into a smooth plane of equality of opportunity; and until the crooked places of prejudice are transformed by the straightening process of bright-eyed wisdom.*

I commend to you **this essay** by Eli McCaulley on January 20, 2025.

May we follow the way of Christ today and always,

Jennifer +

Sunday Forum: St. Stephen's 2026 Budget

January 18, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall



Join **John Plimpton, Treasurer, and Rev. Jennifer to discuss the 2026 budget** that will be reviewed for final approval by the Vestry at their January 26 meeting. We'll learn about the results of the stewardship campaign and how the church can invest in its ministries and service to the community in the coming year.



Sunday, January 25: Bishop LaBelle Visitation 10:00 am

On Sunday, January 25, we will welcome **Bishop Phil LaBelle for his visitation** and for the **sacraments** of confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation of faith.

A festive brunch is planned for after church; **Jennifer Gary is looking for helpers to bring food.** Please contact her at jennifer_gary@comcast.net.

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, February 1, 11:30 am

We'll gather after church to celebrate the last year, to elect new vestry members and delegates to convention, and to give thanks for the lay leadership and ministries of our parish. Please come and take your part in this important event in the life of our parish!



Sunday Forum: Information Session with ROOTS Young Adult Shelter and Teen Feed

February 15, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

Please join us Sunday February 15th for a discussion with **ROOTS Young Adult Shelter** and **Teen Feed.**

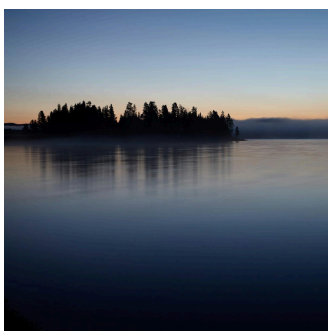
Both these organizations operate in the University District, working to support teens and young adults experiencing homelessness. Roots Young Adult Shelter can house up to 45 young people each night, making it the largest shelter for youth ages 18-25 in WA State. St. Stephen's has a long relationship with Teen Feed, which works with the community to offer support to meet basic needs, build strong relationships, and ally with houseless youth as they meet their future off the streets. Roots Shelter offers guests access case management, housing navigation, wellness supports, employment help, and connection to community resources.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and concerns at this forum. Please reach out to **Beth Cogan**, bethbenbear@gmail.com, if you have any questions.



Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 pm, in the Nave

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 25 -- **a very special evening of celebration and blessing!** Bishop Phil LaBelle will be present at St. Stephen's as we renew the mutual ministry of all the people in our community and institute Rev. Jennifer as the next rector of the parish. The bishop will also **bless our new preschool**, Laurelhurst Early Learning and give **thanks for the leadership and generosity of Cloud 9.**



Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action Tuesdays: 10:00 am in the Parish Hall, 7:00 pm on Zoom

Join your community for a new weekly group led by Elizabeth Clark-Stern designed to **deepen our connection** to each other and to God, and **create a confidential space** for sharing our challenges, joys, and ideas about our calling. Inspired by the program innovated by Richard Rohr, this group will offer the weekly practices of Still Waters, including some gentle Thai Chi and a 10 minute Centering Prayer. **The group will meet each Tuesday** at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall or 7:00 pm on Zoom. **Contact Elizabeth Clark Stern here** to receive the Zoom link.

Coming Up at St. Stephen's

Sundays 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Coffee Hour (Nave and Parish Hall)
Sundays 3:00 pm. Youth Group Food Program (Narthex)
Tuesdays, 10:00 am Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action (Parish Hall)
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall)

January 18 11:30 am Review St. Stephen's 2026 Annual Budget (Parish Hall)
January 25 10:00 am Bishop Phil Labelle Visitation (Nave)
February 1 11:30 am Annual Parish Meeting (Parish Hall)
February 15 11:30 am Forum on Young Adult and Teen Needs (Parish Hall)
February 25 6:30 pm Renewal of Ministry with Welcoming of a New Rector (Nave)

The Rev. Jennifer King Daugherty, Rector
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RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org



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