

The Witness

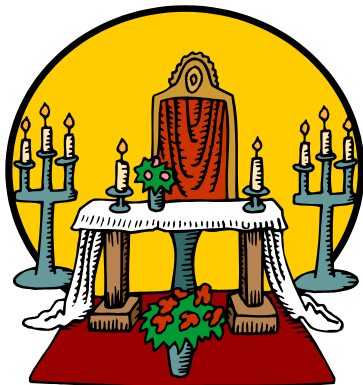


St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
East Haddam, Connecticut

May 2011

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Do you have a desire to serve?

The Altar Guild needs you!

We are currently looking for replacements for the Altar Guild. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Giesey or Liz Garofalo.



Turn Away, Turn Back, Strengthen Your Brothers

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:31-32, NIV)

Did you know that Satan will ask to sift you as wheat? He will ask God if he can shake up your life! And God says "yes." (See also, Job 1:1-12).

Did you also know that Jesus prays for you? He prays for your faith ahead of time. He knows that you will slip away a little...but he also knows that you will come home to him. Jesus said in this passage: "And when you have turned back," not "if you turn back" but **WHEN**. The best part is that despite the fact that we have turned away, He allows us to do his work when we turn back. He says: "Strengthen your brothers."

How cool is that?! There is a purpose in the sifting. God loves us enough to make sure that we will not fall away completely. Even though we may turn away for a while, He is sure that we **WILL** turn back--just as Peter did after he denied that he knew Jesus. And when we do turn back, he expects us to strengthen our brothers. We don't need to earn any trust or love back. He wants us to get straight to work, strengthening others in the faith.

What grace. What love. What mercy. What faithfulness.

Photo:

http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_a_sypEHhpAA/TDELcCZNOKI/AAAAAAAAAIg/xeyX0S2MCFo/s1600/wheat_650.jpg

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<u>8:00 am</u> Morning Prayer & Communion <u>9:45 am</u> Sunday School <u>10:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>5:00 pm</u> Harvest House	<u>6:00 pm</u> Yoga	<u>7:30 pm</u> AA Meeting	<u>8:00 pm</u> AA Meeting	<u>5-9 pm</u> EHYFS event (Parish Hall) <u>7:00 pm</u> Choir Rehearsal		<u>11-4 p.m.</u> E.H. Lions (Parish Hall)
<i>The Third Sunday of Easter</i>						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<u>8:00 am</u> Morning Prayer & Communion <u>9:45 am</u> Sunday School <u>10:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>5:00 pm</u> Harvest House	<u>6:00 pm</u> Yoga <u>7:30 pm</u> Vestry	<u>7:30 pm</u> AA Meeting	<u>8:00 pm</u> AA Meeting <u>6:30 pm</u> Staff meeting	<u>7:00 pm</u> Choir Rehearsal		Bishop's 5K
<i>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<u>8:00 am</u> Morning Prayer & Communion <u>9:45 am</u> Sunday School <u>10:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>5:00 pm</u> Harvest House	<u>6:00 pm</u> Yoga	<u>7:30 pm</u> AA Meeting	<u>8:00 pm</u> AA Meeting	<u>7:00 pm</u> Choir Rehearsal	<u>6:30 pm</u> Movie Night	<u>5-7 pm</u> Chicken BBQ
<i>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<u>8:00 am</u> Morning Prayer & Communion <u>9:45 am</u> Sunday School <u>10:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>5:00 pm</u> Harvest House	<u>6:00 pm</u> Yoga	<u>7:30 pm</u> AA Meeting	<u>8:00 pm</u> AA Meeting	<u>7:00 pm</u> Choir Rehearsal		
<i>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>						
29	30	31				
<u>8:00 am</u> Morning Prayer & Communion <u>9:45 am</u> Sunday School <u>10:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>5:00 pm</u> Harvest House	<i>Memorial Day</i> <u>6:00 pm</u> Yoga	<u>7:30 pm</u> AA Meeting				

Lectionary Texts

May 1—Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm 16
 Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 1 Peter 1:3-9
 John 20:19-31

May 8—Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17
 Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 1 Peter 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35

May 15—Fourth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 23
 Acts 2:42-47
 1 Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10

May 22—Fifth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
 Acts 7:55-60
 1 Peter 2:2-10
 John 14:1-14

May 29—Sixth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 66:7-18
 Acts 17:22-31
 1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21

Vestry Highlights

March 14, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer and Bible Verse

Acceptance of February's Minutes

Treasurer's Report [as of March 14th]

Pledges [were] up about \$2,000.

Disbursements: Insurance and Diocesan Pledge [had] not been paid. Fuel bill has been paid in full

Capital Campaign: We received \$2,500 actual money – not pledged; \$44,528 [total].

Liquidations: Chapel Room, Tables & Chairs

Cash Flow: \$506 cash in. Middle School Dance: \$521 = amount deposited is money collected from the kids to attend. Goes to pay DJ, East Haddam Police; remainder goes to Middle School Advisory Board.

...Why are we still not getting ahead?

Fuel way up through end of February; paid approx. \$4,000

March checks written to date [were] \$2,000

Pledges are down by \$25,000 (\$90,000 this year vs. \$115,000 last year)

Shagbark bill \$200 so far this year

Last pension payment was made in January for \$3,750. This [was] the first month the clergy salary and benefits has been zero.

Maintenance is way up \$300 for the boiler inspection

Liquidation of Funds: There are a number of funds, which have been on the books for years with no movement either way. The Vestry reviewed and determined (a) whether the funds could be put to use in other areas of need, and (b) where/how.

Capital Campaign Update

\$195,000 pledged so far. The next step will be to seek pledges from St. Stephen's neighbors on Main Street. Advertising for the Bid – hope to open bids in early April. Need to work with the architect on final plans and specs for the bid.

This next phase of the campaign where we reach out to the community needs to look non-secular. Fred has written a letter in conjunction with Mary Ellen Klink. The letter, and all letters, will include the "Grant from the Connecticut Commission on Art" logo. This is a part of our contract with them. A second letter to the historic committee will be drafted.

Search Committee: Fred Weissbach and Liz Garafalo are co-chairs. June Aziz has recommended: that we seek a full time priest; that the search committee be given a \$20,000 budget (for the cost of moving a candidate and for three members of the committee to visit the parish of the new candidate).

Website (Ed Odell updated)

Donations to the Japan Relief fund

Acolyte Training: Dianne is willing to train acolytes.

Need new acolytes. There are only 2-3 that are seasoned. Need to be at least age 10-11 (5th grade).

Dianne will only be here for 6 months at most after the new priest starts.

Rocking Chairs: Lynda Hickey would like to put a few in the back of the church for families with babies.

Parochial Report: Needs to be completed by the wardens and voted on by the Vestry before being submitted to the Diocese.

Fund Raisers: April 30th [was] the date of the Tag Sale. November 5th will be the Auction.

Adjournment Tanya Knox motioned to adjourn 9:20; seconded by Andy Lavigne. No further discussion. Motioned approved unanimously and carried.

Next Meeting: April 11th 7:30pm

THE WITNESS

May 2011

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 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
 31 Main Street (P.O. Box 464)
 East Haddam, CT 06423
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 Email St.stephenschurch@att.net

Wardens:
 Gordon Cobleigh
 Gerry Piccola
Deacon:
 Dianne Warley
Secretary:
 Jennica Serra
Organist:
 Wendy Hummel
Sexton:
 Dennis Whitty
Treasurers:
 Dennis Tovey
 A. Karolshak

Ushers:
 Glenn Brielmann
Church School:
 Lynda Hickey
Diocesan Delegate:
 Lynne Meyer
 Gordon Cobleigh
 (alternate)
Stewardship:
 Phil Piccola
Acolytes:
 Dianne Warley (temp)

Prayer Hotline:
 Susan Adams
Young Adult Ministries:
 Liz Garofalo
 Bill Faye
Ladies Aid Society:
 Kathy Faye
Altar Guild:
 Nancy Giesey
Coffee Hour:
 Kendall & Tanya
 Knox

Vestry:
 Patty Flanagan
 Evelyn Morgen
 Lloyd Neudecker
 Madeline Fazzino
 Tanya Knox
 Andy Lavigne
 Maggie Shepherd
 Kathy Faye
 Glenn Brielmann

Rotation Schedule

May 2011

	Ushers	Lay Readers	Lectors	Acolytes	Chalice Bearers	Prayers of the People	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour	Nursery	After Service Prayer
5/1	Liz Garofalo	Dave Hass	Peter Gilsenan	Michael Homar	Dan Holle	Gerry Piccola	D. Duncan Jane Burtis	Schott, Johnson, Morgan-Brown	C & M Cavrell	Evelyn Morgen
5/8	Dennis Corriveau	Evelyn Morgen	Kerri Willis	Edwin Homar	Dianne Warley	Glenn Brielmann	Liz Garofalo	Klinck, Faye & Hickey	Andrew Lavigne	Liz Garofalo
5/15	Glenn Brielmann	Dianne Warley	Matt Budzik	Erin Holle	Maggie Shepherd	Barbara Hass	Nancy Giesey	Anderson & Sawyer	Amanda Lisitano	Liz Johnson
5/22	Phil Piccola	Jim Meyer	Ann DiFiglia	Samantha Homar	Dennis Whitty	Dave Hass		Knox & DiFiglia	C & M Cavrell	Kathy Faye
5/29	Kendall Knox	Kathy Faye	Peter Gilsenan	Connor Johnson	Dan Holle	Ann DiFiglia	Terry Tovey	Garofalo, Drew & Homar	Andrew Lavigne	Cindy Holle
6/5	Liz Garofalo	Gordon Cobleigh	Kerri Willis	Michael Homar	Dianne Warley	Wendy Hummel	D. Duncan Jane Burtis	Johnson & Hoover	Amanda Lisitano	Evelyn Morgen
6/12	Dennis Corriveau	Dave Hass	Matt Budzik	Edwin Homar	Maggie Shepherd	Liz Johnson	Liz Garofalo	Guptill, Iarusso, Dedman & Moore	C & M Cavrell	Liz Garofalo
6/19	Glenn Brielmann	Evelyn Morgen	Ann DiFiglia	Erin Holle	Dennis Whitty	Chick Grillo	Nancy Giesey	Brielmann, Marciniac & Lisitano	Andrew Lavigne	Liz Johnson
6/26	Phil Piccola	Dianne Warley	Peter Gilsenan	Samantha Homar	Dan Holle	Glenn Brielmann		Schott, Johnson, Morgan-Brown	Amanda Lisitano	Kathy Faye

Ushers Glenn Brielmann Phil Piccola Kendall Knox Liz Garofalo Dennis Corriveau (8:00 AM) Patty Kloof	Lectors Peter Gilsenan Kerri Willis Matt Budzik Ann DiFiglia Acolytes Michael Homar Edwin Homar Erin Holle Samantha Homar Connor Johnson	Chalice Bearers Dianne Warley Maggie Shepherd Dennis Whitty Dan Holle Prayers of the People Barbara Hass Dave Hass Ann DiFiglia Wendy Hummel Liz Johnson Chick Grillo Gerry Piccola Glenn Brielmann	Altar Guild Debby Duncan /Jane Burtis Liz Garofalo Nancy Giesey Terry Tovey (5 th wk) After 8am cleanup Rachel Schott (2x) Maggie Shepherd Terry Tovey (5 th wk) After 10am cleanup Debby Duncan Evelyn Morgen Maggie Shepherd Ann DiFiglia Terry Tovey (5 th wk) Laundry Barbara Hass	Coffee Hour Maureen Johnson Priscilla Hoover Anne Guptill & Ed Iarusso The Dedmans Ruth Moore Marsha Brielmann Marc Marciniac Amanda Lisitano W. Morgan-Brown Rachel Schott Liz Johnson Kathy Klinck The Fayses Lynda Hickey The Andersons The Sawyers	The Knoxs Ann & Frank DiFiglia Liz Garofalo Jay Drew Lisa Homar Nursery Carl & Melissa Cavrell Andrew Lavigne Amanda Lisitano After Service Prayer Liz Garofalo Liz Johnson Kathy Faye Cindy Holle Evelyn Morgen
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St. Stephen's Children



Greetings everyone!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter celebration! He has risen indeed – Alleluia! I asked my daughter Ally to count how many Alleluia's we would say in church on Easter Sunday – she gave up at about 16 – I explained to her why we were celebrating and saying so many Alleluia's. She was so happy to find out that Jesus was not dead but has risen!

I wish to extend my thanks to the youth class for performing their Good Friday skit “And Now He's Gone”. They did a great job with the support of Liz Garofalo, Bill Faye, and Wendy Hummel.

Upcoming Events:

May 1st – Youth & Children Garden work party – following church. Please bring or wear clothes that can get dirty. Any garden tools/gloves to use would be great also!

May 14th - Bishop's 5K – If you are interested in registering there are registration forms on the parent board. If you are interested in sponsoring someone please let me know. The cost is \$20 per adult (15 yrs old and up) and \$10 per child. Please register by May 10th. The cost if you register the day of the event is \$25 per adult and \$15 per child. For more information please see the brochure on the parent board.

May 20th – Movie Night – We will have a double feature once again with a “G” rated movie at 6:30pm followed by a “PG” rated movie at 8:30pm – Refreshments will be served for a nominal fee which will go towards funding our VBS program this summer.

June 12th – Church Picnic & last day of church school classes. Certificates will be distributed during the service.

VBS – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ????

I am trying to organize a VBS to be held here at St. Stephen's in August. In order to be able to offer this, I will need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in any way please let me know ASAP! If we don't have enough people to help out we won't be able to offer the program. The thought is to run the VBS either the first or second week in August in the evenings 6:00 – 8:00p.m. This would be a wonderful program for St. Stephen's to be able to offer to the surrounding communities! Let's make it happen together!!

Youth Class & Youth Group – Our youth are great! I am so proud of each and every one of them. They are truly wonderful people who need YOU to help guide them next year. Please consider volunteering some of your time to help teach our youth class on Sunday's or to lead the youth group meetings which are held on alternating Sunday's after church. It is truly a rewarding experience. Contact me for further information – st.stephenchildren@att.net or in person at church.

Curriculum Review – I would like to review the curriculum we have used this year for all classes with anyone interested in having some input for what will be used next year. We can arrange a date & time to meet. I would really like to know from parents what is working & what isn't so we can have the most effective curriculum in place to help our children & youth grow closer in their relationships with God. Please contact me if you would be interested in this discussion.

I would like to wish all the Mothers - which includes all of you who care for children like a Mother - a very happy Mother's Day –

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrong doing. It does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres.”
(Corinthians 13)

God bless –
Lynda Hickey

st.stephenchildren@att.net

The story of St. Stephen's continues...

While the First Ecclesiastical Society (Congregational) was growing out of two buildings during this time, something else was happening. For generations, Puritans preached that they were only worthy of damnation and therefore wholly dependent on God's favor. Surrounded by rules and laws, they lived in the consciousness of multiple offenses. With life so structured, deep feelings of guilt inevitably grew. This widespread crisis of authority not only alienated many, but also created a passionate social struggle with church power and authority.

From this struggle came the "Great Awakening." Regular people denied the age old distinction that set the clergy apart as a separate order of men and refused the traditional orthodoxies. This movement associated virtue with ordinary people rather than the elite clergy. By redefining leadership itself, these movements reconstructed the foundations of religion in keeping the values and priorities of ordinary people. It also empowered ordinary people by taking their deepest spiritual impulses at face value rather than subjecting them to the scrutiny of orthodox doctrine.

While the democratization of American Christianity was happening, the Anglican Church was making inroads in New England. Around 1725, Anglicans were a small and despised minority. However, fifty years later, they were the second largest church group in Connecticut. This was partly due to the Anglicans disgust with the emotional extravagances of the "Great Awakening." Anglicanism appealed to moderate people who recoiled from the non-spiritual philosophy of the "enlightenment" and from the tendency to regard religion as a series of spasmodic revivals. Anglicans wanted to steer the course between the intellectual snobbery of the Congregationalists and emotional pietism of the "Great Awakening", which insisted on feeling its own pulse.

To be continued...

The Stewardship Committee

To the Youth:

"I just wanted to thank them for providing the Good Friday Evening Service and Bread and Broth dinner for the parish.

They did a wonderful job and all who attended were touched by their service. They Youth would like to thank Lynda Hickey for her help in preparing, Dan Hickey for stepping in at the last minute and Wendy Hummel for the music that enhanced the service."

Bill Faye & Liz Garofalo
Youth Group Leaders



Calling All Photographers!

I am currently putting together an album of memories for the years 1935 - 1995 and am looking for memories that encompass the tenures of the Rev. Page thru the Rev. Kline. Any photos, memories, memorabilia, and news clippings would be extremely appreciated. I can scan your photos into my computer and return them. This album combined with the one we gave M. Rachel (1996-2010) will encompass the last 75 years.

Please mark the dates, event, and names of those in the photo.

Thank you,
Lynne Meyer

Campaign Coming Down the Homestretch

St. Stephen's Campaign Committee, which includes Gordon Cobleigh, George Giesey, Mary Ellen Klinck, Anna Ruth Masters, Gerry Piccola, and Fred Weissbach has been hard at work since the early fall to raise the necessary funds for the long-delayed and much-needed renovations and repairs to the Church and Parish House. A total of \$195,625 has been committed toward this project that we call "Raising the Roof: Building an Ark for our Age," and this amount includes the \$65,000 grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism that has been pledged to St. Stephen's.

These funds are intended to address the on-going infiltration of water into the building, resulting in leaks above the altar, damage to plaster on the walls of the sanctuary, and an accumulation of mold and mildew. The probable scope of work will include the following: full re-roofing to replace all wood shingles on the Church, replacement of all wood siding on the Church, new gutters and flashing, and repairs to the brick work on the chimneys in order to make our Church "water-tight." Replacing the asphalt shingles on the Parish Hall and Rectory, as well as the construction of storm drains, awaits our success with future grant requests.

The Facilities Committee has received bids from five contractors, and we now know that the cost of this project will be \$190,000, including architectural fees and possible change orders. Once we add the cost of short-term borrowing to cover construction costs as we await the payment of pledges, we estimate that

St. Stephen's will need a total of \$200,000. This means that we are just \$4,375 short of our goal.

Will you consider making a capstone gift for this phase of capital improvements to help put our efforts over the top? To date, 42 percent of our active Church members have made a gift to the Campaign. If everyone participates, making gifts of \$25, \$50, or \$100, we will be able to meet our goal. Then, the renovations and repairs can begin this summer, and we will celebrate this important occasion with a victory party at the home of Mary Ellen Klinck on Sunday afternoon, June 26, starting at 4:00 pm.

Please remember that at this point in the Campaign every gift is vitally important, and \$25 will make a difference. Depending on your personal

circumstances, you might want to make a multi-year pledge or a one-time gift in honor or memory of a family member or friend. Once you have filled out the pledge card sent to you several months ago, you can mail it back to St. Stephen's or you might want to place your pledge card in the offering plate during an upcoming service. If you need a new pledge card, just email Fred Weissbach at fred@fa-ct.og. Thank you.



"The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of. Our attention would have been on God."

-C.S. Lewis

May Tithing

Thank you for May Blessings

In Luke 19 Jesus speaks of eternal rewards, investing our “*minas*” in God. This May, in your faithful service, choose a blessing that is close to your heart. Give back to God by tithing for one day, three days, or 31 days. You may want to include your blessing in a note with your tithe in the collection plate.

- ✝ Mothers, aunts, sisters, grandmothers, daughters
- ✝ Godly family financial plan
- ✝ Working, playing and praying together as a family
- ✝ May flowers - Song of Songs 2:12
- ✝ Patience - fruit of the Holy Spirit
- ✝ Do not lose heart ♡
- ✝ Justice and truth
- ✝ Memorial Day
- ✝ National Day of Prayer
- ✝ Confirmation
- ✝ Forgiveness
- ✝ God's comforting love
- ✝ Knowing God's goodness, grace and mercy
- ✝ Inspirational Worship
- ✝ Guidance by the Holy Spirit
- ✝ Spiritual journey with God
- ✝ God's Word
- ✝ God's concern for our character
- ✝ Family birthdays, anniversaries, celebrations
- ✝ May 1st Saint Philip and Saint James
- ✝ May 8th Juliann of Norwich
- ✝ May 31st The visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Stewardship Committee
Susan Adams

May	Do this for God	Source
1	Commit to finish well	1 Kings 11:9
2	Obey God's Word	1 Kings 13:26
3	Learn God's lessons	Luke 22:32
4	Do the right thing for God	1 Kings 18:17
5	Be strong during trials	1 Kings 19:4
6	Recognize Jesus as Savior	Luke 23:47
7	Turn to God's Word when discouraged	Luke 24:32
8	Seek and please God	Luke 24:50-53
9	Tell others about Jesus	2 Kings 7:9
10	Live a life of complete obedience to God	2 Kings 12:3
11	Worship pleasing God	John 2:16
12	Say yes to Jesus	John 3:3
13	Know that worship brings God joy	2 Kings 17:28
14	Worship as God desires	John 4:23
15	Do right before God	2 Kings 22:13
16	Know what matters to God	John 5:16-17
17	Be prepared to live eternally with God	John 5:25
18	Read His Word and learn His lessons	1 Chron. 5:20-25
19	Pray "Not my will, but Thine"	Joh. 6:38
20	Keep His Word, seek God's guidance	1 Chron. 10:13-14
21	Live and learn His Word	1 Chron. 13:3 & 15:13
22	Wear Holiness	1 Chron. 16:29
23	Search yourself with God's help	John 8:7
24	Devote heart and soul to seek God	1 Chron. 22:19
25	Pray and do not ask why	John 9:3
26	Your checkbook should reflect God	1 Chron. 29:16
27	Thank You Jesus	John 10:11
28	Bring Glory to God	2 Chron. 5:13-14
29	Use your time for God	John 11:9-10
30	Be steadfast in your Christian life	2 Chron. 11:16 & 12:1
31	Be faithful to God	2 Chron. 13:10

Susan Adams

May 2011

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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East Haddam, CT 06423-0464

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Praise Him in the good times and the bad!

Worshipping God changes things.

Try it...

"I will praise you, O Lord, with all of my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High."

Psalm 9:1-2