

The Witness



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
East Haddam, Connecticut

September 2011

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**American Red Cross
Blood Drive
Sept. 20th 1-6 p.m.**

Sign up now for your appointment!

Log onto: www.redcrossblood.org
Or call: 1-800-733-2767



St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Feast Day: September 21st

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-26

The painting above is *The Calling of St. Matthew*, by Hendrick Terbrugghen. As many know, Matthew was a tax collector called by Jesus to become his apostle. Once again, Christ spoke his two “magic words” to him: “Follow me”...

“As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, **‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’** For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

(Matthew 9:9-13, emphasis added)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Save the Date: Chicken BBQ – October 8 th Cookie Sale – October 8 th Coat Drive – October 22 nd Cookie Fair – December 10 th				1 <u>7:00 pm</u> Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4 <u>8:00 am</u> Morning Prayer & Communion <u>9:45 am</u> Sunday School <u>10:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>11:00 am</u> Youth Choir <u>5:00 pm</u> Harvest House	5 <u>6:00 pm</u> Yoga	6 <u>7:30 pm</u> AA Meeting	7 <u>8:00 pm</u> AA Meeting	8 <u>7:00 pm</u> Choir Rehearsal	9 <u>4:30-10 pm</u> Hall Rental	10 <u>6 pm</u> LAS: Tea Party Set-up
11 <u>8:00 am</u> Morning Prayer & Communion <u>9:45 am</u> Sunday School <u>10:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>11:00 am</u> Youth Choir <u>12-1 pm</u> Ladies Aid Mtg <u>1:15-2:15 pm</u> LAS Tea <u>5:00 pm</u> Harvest House	12 <u>6:00 pm</u> Yoga <u>7:30 pm</u> Vestry	13 <u>7:30 pm</u> AA Meeting	14 <u>8:00 pm</u> AA Meeting	15 <u>7:00 pm</u> Choir Rehearsal	16	17 <u>11 am – 4 pm</u> Hall Rental <u>5-10 pm</u> Middle School Dance
18 <u>8:00 am</u> Morning Prayer & Communion <u>9:45 am</u> Sunday School <u>10:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>11:00 am</u> Youth Choir <u>1:00 pm</u> Meeting of East Haddam Clergy <u>5:00 pm</u> Harvest House	19 <u>6:00 pm</u> Yoga	20 <u>10:30 – 8</u> Hall Rental <u>1-6 pm</u> Blood Drive <u>7:30 pm</u> AA Meeting	21 <u>8:00 pm</u> AA Meeting	22 <u>7:00 pm</u> Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 <u>8:00 am</u> Morning Prayer & Communion <u>9:45 am</u> Sunday School <u>10:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist & Holy Baptism <u>11:00 am</u> Youth Choir <u>5:00 pm</u> Harvest House	26 <u>6:00 pm</u> Yoga	27 <u>7:30 pm</u> AA Meeting	28 <u>8:00 pm</u> AA Meeting	29 <u>7:00 pm</u> Choir Rehearsal	30	

From David...**WELCOME BACK**

Dear Saint Stephen's Family,

You should be receiving this issue of *The Witness* just as we shift back to our fall schedule of services and our new program year begins. This year, the greeting "welcome back" takes on a bit of a new meaning as we welcome back electricity, water and the other conveniences of modern life that we take for granted. This new gratitude, which we will no doubt promptly forget until the next hurricane/tropical storm or the first snow or ice storm of the winter season, has caused all of us to consider and give thanks for the many ways in which parishioners, neighbors and even total strangers reached out to one another in "hurricane parties" to deal with failing freezers, sharing showers and other water resources, and other creative expressions of support for one another.

Another moment of remembrance that we will observe this month is the tenth anniversary of September 11 and the tragic and heroic events of that day that has changed our realities in so many ways. The anniversary, particularly this one marking as it does a major mile stone in our individual and collective memories, is another kind of "welcome back" as it brings back into our "top of mind" awareness those dreadful moments ten years ago and the reactions of the world, our nation, our community and ourselves to them. This observance also calls us to consider how we will move forward in response to the reality of 9/11 and consider what God is calling us to do in response.

On top of all of this is the resumption of all of our usual fall activities and the return to a familiarity that is both comforting and challenging. We note that school is back in session and look forward to renewing friendships and catching up with those whom we have not seen during the summer months. We are each taking up again the ministries to which God calls us with, hopefully, a renewed energy that comes from a time of refreshment, renewal and recreation. There is much to do here at Saint Stephen's and you will be hearing many more details from the

Vestry in the next few weeks as we ask all of you to consider the role(s) each of us can play in the mission and ministries of this local Eucharistic community. We do this knowing that we are all called to ministry even when these calls make us uncomfortable and unsure.

So, Welcome Back! There is much to do as we move forward together in mission seeking to discern what God is up to in our lives and in this community of faith.

David+

Lectionary Texts**September 4—Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 12:1-14
 Psalm 149
 Romans 13:8-14
 Matthew 18:15-20

September 11—Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31
 Psalm 114 or Canticle: The Songs of Moses & Miriam
 Romans 14:1-12
 Matthew 18:21-35

September 18—Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15
 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
 Philippians 1:21-30
 Matthew 20:1-16

September 25—Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
 Philippians 2:1-13
 Matthew 16:21-28

Vestry Highlights

Next meeting: September 12th 7:30 p.m.

Look for an updated installment of Vestry Highlights in the October edition of the Witness.

THE WITNESS

August 2011

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David Parachini

Wardens:

Gordon Cobleigh
 Gerry Piccola

Deacon:

Dianne Warley

Secretary:

Jennica Serra

Organist:

Wendy Hummel

Sexton:

Dennis Whitty

Treasurers:

Dennis Tovey
 A. Karolshak

Ushers:

Glenn Briemann

Christian Education:

Lynda Hickey

Diocesan Delegate:

Lynne Meyer

Stewardship:

Gordon Cobleigh
 (alternate)
 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 Briemann

Rotation Schedule

August 2011

	Ushers	Lay Readers	Lectors	Acolytes	Chalice Bearers	Prayers of the People	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour	Nursery	After Service Prayer
9/4	Phil Piccola	Dave Hass	Kerri Willis	Connor Johnson	Dianne Warley	Dave Hass		Anderson & Sawyer	Amanda Lisitano	Liz Johnson
9/11	Kendall Knox	Evelyn Morgen	Matt Budzik	Michael Homar	Maggie Shepherd	Ann DiFiglia		Knox & DiFiglia	C & M Cavrell	Kathy Faye
9/18	Liz Garofalo	Jim Meyer	Ann DiFiglia	Edwin Homar	Dennis Whitty	Wendy Hummel		Garofalo, Drew & Homar	Andrew Lavigne	Cindy Holle
9/25	Dennis Corriveau	Kathy Faye	Peter Gilsenan	Erin Holle	Dan Holle	Liz Johnson		Johnson & Hoover	Amanda Lisitano	Evelyn Morgen
10/2	Glenn Briemann	Gordon Cobleigh	Kerri Willis	Samantha Homar	Dianne Warley	Chick Grillo		Guptill, Iaruso, Dedman & Moore	C & M Cavrell	Liz Garofalo
10/9	Phil Piccola	Dave Hass	Matt Budzik	Connor Johnson	Maggie Shepherd	Gerry Piccola		Briemann, Marciniac & Lisitano	Andrew Lavigne	Liz Johnson
10/16	Kendall Knox	Evelyn Morgen	Ann DiFiglia	Michael Homar	Dennis Whitty	Glenn Briemann		Johnson, Schott, Morgan-Brown	Amanda Lisitano	Kathy Faye
10/23	Liz Garofalo	Jim Meyer	Peter Gilsenan	Edwin Homar	Dan Holle	Barbara Hass		Klinck, Faye & Hickey	C & M Cavrell	Cindy Holle
10/30	Dennis Corriveau	Kathy Faye	Kerri Willis	Erin Holle	Dianne Warley	Dave Hass		Anderson & Sawyer	Andrew Lavigne	Evelyn Morgen

See Separate Schedule (Last page)

Ushers Glenn Briemann Phil Piccola Kendall Knox Liz Garofalo Dennis Corriveau (8:00 AM) Patty Kloo	Lectors Peter Gilsenan Kerri Willis Matt Budzik Ann DiFiglia	Chalice Bearers Dianne Warley Maggie Shepherd Dennis Whitty Dan Holle	Coffee Hour Maureen Johnson Priscilla Hoover Anne Guptill & Ed Iaruso The Dedmans Ruth Moore Marsha Briemann Marc Marciniac Amanda Lisitano W. Morgan-Brown Rachel Schott Liz Johnson Kathy Klinck The Fays 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
Lay Readers Dave Hass Evelyn Morgen Jim Meyer Kathy Faye Gordon Cobleigh	Acolytes Michael Homar Edwin Homar Erin Holle Samantha Homar Connor Johnson	Prayers of the People Barbara Hass Dave Hass Ann DiFiglia Wendy Hummel Liz Johnson Chick Grillo Gerry Piccola Glenn Briemann			After Service Prayer Liz Garofalo Liz Johnson Kathy Faye Cindy Holle Evelyn Morgen
					Laundry Barbara Hass

St. Stephen's Children



It's that time of the year already!! I would like to welcome all the children and youth to our church school program for 2011-2012! There have been some curriculum changes to all the classes this year. The youth have selected to use a variety of different types of curriculum from the resource library at Yale Divinity – which should make for an exciting year ahead! The base curriculum will be “Living the Good News” with a mixture of various lessons discussing where God is in everyday life situations. The 2nd through 5th grade classes will be using a lectionary based curriculum titled “Weaving God’s Promises” which includes activities that correspond to the lesson. The Pre-k through 1st grade class will still be using the Godly Play lessons however depending on the lectionary, we will be supplementing with lessons from “Weaving God’s Promises”.

Please be sure to register your child – Each child should have a new form filled out at the beginning of each school year. Forms are on the table in the Narthex or printed from the website www.ststeves.org and may be handed into the church office.

The Teacher sign-up sheet is still in need of volunteers!! Please help our church school function by volunteering a few hours of your time.

I am looking forward to seeing all the children return to church school and hopefully some new faces as well! We will have a wonderful year ahead with all the children & youth of St. Stephens! Upcoming events and activities will be posted on the bulletin board and also on the website – Please check them periodically.

God Bless,
Lynda Hickey
st.stephenchildren@att.net

Youth Group

The older youth visited Yale Divinity School on Friday August 12. We met with a very helpful person, Carolyn Englehardt, who walked the group through about 6 different curriculum and learning styles. We had a lot of lively discussion including trying on some of the different costumes they have available for worship plays. Mr. Faye was not too excited about Liturgical dance however. The group was a little interested in some of the video offerings. In the end we settled on a few different things to look over in detail back at St. Stephen's later. After we were done we came back to Colchester for a picnic and pool party at Mrs. Hickey's house. She put on an awesome “little” party.

On Sunday, August 14th, 9 youth and 5 adults took a road trip to the Deerfield River in Massachusetts for a white water rafting trip. Some members of the group had been on this trip before. We were excited to find that we had been immortalized in print (so to speak). We are on the cover of their brochure for group trips. If you look closely you can see Brittney when she was still a kid and Mr. Faye when he was 20 pounds lighter. We all had a great time and Mrs. Hickey said it wasn't as scary as she thought it was going to be. Many of the young people want to go on another, more challenging, trip some other time. (If so we may need to find more adventuresome chaperones.)

We will begin Sunday morning discussion group on Sept 11th at 9:45 a.m. and the Youth Group will start meeting after church in October. More details to follow.

Bill Faye & Liz Garofalo

Chicken BBQ

St. Stephen's Annual Chicken Barbeque will be held on Saturday, October 8th, from 5-7 p.m. at St. Stephen's Parish Hall, Main Street, East Haddam, CT. Menu includes ½ of a bbq chicken, potato, salad, roll, and a selection of homemade desserts. Price is \$9.00.

For more information, please call St. Stephen's at 860-873-9547.

Prelude to Cookie Fair ~ Cookie Sale!

On October 8th, the Ladies Aid will be having a chocolate chip cookie sale at Shagbark to benefit the Fuel and Food Banks of East Haddam. We will be baking cookies on Friday evening, October 7th, in the parish hall kitchen starting at 6:00 p.m. We invite you to come and bake, learn to bake, and package cookies for the sale the next day.

Could you please keep an eye out for coupons for flour, sugar, chocolate bits, and butter and bring them into church? I will have a box in the hall to collect coupons.

This cookie sale is a prelude to our big Cookie Fair in December. So please help support us by coming out to bake or buy on October 7th and 8th.

**St. Luke's Eldercare Services**

Do you grocery shop?? If so would you be willing to take an extra few minutes and pick up items for an area elderly person who is no longer able to drive to the store and shop for themselves? (Many lack a computer so are not even able to order delivery.) This is a dilemma our elderly neighbors too often face, but with your help on a bi-weekly basis, it's a problem that can be resolved! Just contact us at St. Luke's Eldercare Services, 860-347-5661.

In addition to grocery shopping, we need drivers to provide out-of-area medical transportation, rides for veterans to the VA hospitals, and volunteers to pay weekly visits to those who are housebound and, consequently, lonely. If you can help in any of these areas please contact: St. Luke's Eldercare Services, 100 Riverview Center, Middletown, CT 06457. 860-347-5661. www.stlukeshome.org

The Story of St. Stephen's

The Episcopal Society was formed on April 26, 1791.

"We the subscribers, inhabitants of East Haddam conscious of the property and sensible to the utility of the method of worshiping almighty God, agreeable to the Episcopalian method of worship, do hereby avow to the Almighty after the Episcopalian mode of worship, and consider ourselves in the situation of other Episcopalian in the state."

The Rev. Abraham Jarvis, from Middletown, chose the following positions, as Clerk: Daniel Chapman; Wardens, Jabes Chapman and Timothy Cone; as Vestry, Amasa Brainard, William Gelston, and Reuben Champion; as Choristers, Reuben Champion and Jonathan Spencer.

The first meeting of the Episcopal Society was held on May 13, 1791, at the home of William Gelston. It was voted that a tax of two pence on the pound be laid on the inhabitants of the society from the list of the year 1790 to defray the necessary expenses of the parish and for the hiring of a preacher in the future.

On September 5, 1791, the Episcopal Society was enlarged by forty-one other members of the First Congregational Church. Other than the Episcopalian dogma, another reason to quit the Congregational Church was the then Connecticut law of being taxed to support Congregational ministers. As Legal dissenters, Anglican (later Episcopalian) and Baptists could obtain exemptions from ecclesiastical taxes. Baptists who did not believe in enforced religious contributions were simply excused from payment, and the rates levied on Anglicans helped support their own missionaries. For Anglicans (later Episcopalian), in order to qualify for the exemptions, they had to live near enough to a minister to "conveniently" attend worship.

The Stewardship Committee

Ladies Aid Society

The LAS has been putting together ideas over the summer and this fall's Forum and Fun Series is taking shape already! We hope you can join us for the first few programs.

We're especially excited to have Bishop Laura Ahrens joining us on **Friday, October 14th at 7 p.m. to discuss "Women in the Church."** How has the place of women in the church changed since women's ordination? Has it? Bishop Ahrens is an enthusiastic, wise woman of God, who will listen and speak from her experience as a woman, priest, and now bishop in the Episcopal Church.

To date, our line-up is as follows—Stay tuned for more and please submit ideas you may have by filling out the appropriate form provided in the Narthex.

Sunday October 9, 2011:

"After Church" - A historical walking tour of our church and grounds, led by Lynne Meyer.

Friday, October 14, 2011:

7 p.m. – A presentation from the Rt. Reverend Laura Ahrens, Suffragan Bishop, entitled: "Women and Church."

November 2011 (date tbd):

A Night with Expert Naturopath, Michelle Pouliot

St. Stephen's Serendipity Auction News

St. Stephen's is poised to put on another Serendipity Auction, which is set for Saturday, November 5th. Our first six auctions held every other year all raised over \$5000. They succeeded because of the wide participation of the congregation. The date is not that far off; so we all out to be thinking of what we can contribute as parishioners.

First: Items we can contribute ourselves. Successful draws include things that have appeal because of their value, beauty, or usefulness. Here are just a few of the categories that are popular with the average buyers:

- **New items;** such as gourmet specialties, toys, software, video games, car-care products, baby products, wine, gift certificates, etc.
- **Services;** such as babysitting, house cleaning, leaf raking, window washing, etc.
- **Antiques;** those old items in your attic that have value but you have nowhere else to put them or auntie gave them to you and you never liked them anyway.

- **Miscellaneous things;** like sporting tickets, cruise rides, movie passes, and vacation time-shares.

Second and just as important is our continued need for volunteers. We need a great response to our quest for solicitors. If we all just asked two or three businesses or friends for a donation then the saying, "many hands make light work" will be true.

The money raised this year will be split up as in 45% of the profit will go to the capital campaign, 45% to the general operating budget, and 10% to mission.

We are also going to have dinner served during the silent auction. Dinner will be \$10 per person and will be buffet style. For more information: Liz Garofalo at 986-2855, Ann DiFiglia at 873-2018, Bob Bennet at 754-8136, or Glenn Brielmann at 345-8464

The Auction Committee

Coat Drive

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Main Street, East Haddam will be collecting new and previously loved winter coats, men's, women's, and children's, for the needy.

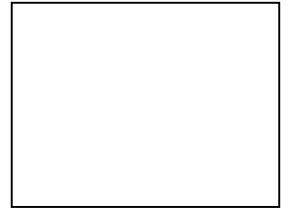
If you are "fall cleaning" and going through your winter wardrobe please consider donating. You might even consider purchasing a used coat at a Goodwill store or consignment shop. Please check that the coat is in "very wearable" condition, clean, buttons intact, etc.

Collections will take place on Saturday, October 22nd from 9:00 to 12:00 at St. Stephen's. If you have any questions, please contact Ann and Frank DiFiglia, 873-2018. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

Altar Guild Schedule

	Before 8 a.m.	After 8 a.m.	After 10 a.m.
Week 1	Debby Duncan	Debby	Debby
Week 2	Liz Garofalo	Liz	Evelyn
Week 3	Nancy Giesey	Maggie Shepherd	Maggie
Week 4	Eleanore Browne	Eleanore	Ann DiFiglia
Week 5	Terry Tovey	Terry	Maggie

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 464 / 31 Main Street
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Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;
Bind them around your neck;
Write them on the tablet of your heart.
So you will find favor and good success
In the sight of God and man.

- Proverbs 3:3-4