

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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The Right Reverend Dr. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop Diocesan  
The Right Reverend James E. Curry, Bishop Suffragan  
The Right Reverend Dr. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

## St. Stephen's Church Administration and Staff

The Reverend David C. Parachini, Interim Vicar  
Glenn Brielmann, Warden  
Gerry Piccola, Warden  
The Reverend Diane C. Warley, Deacon  
Lynda Hickey, Christian Education Director  
Wendy Hummel, Organist and Choir Director  
Jennica Serra, Parish Secretary  
Dennis Whitty, Sexton

## Search Committee

Fred Weissbach, Co-Chair  
Liz Garofalo, Co-Chair  
Debby Duncan, Secretary  
Theresa Tovey, Chaplain  
Nick Grillo  
Priscilla Hoover  
Edward Odell  
Glenn Brielmann, Warden  
Gerry Piccola, Warden  
June Aziz, Diocesan Consultant

## Our Mission

St. Stephen's is a vital and faithful congregation, grounded in prayer and ever seeking greater spiritual maturity. Our parishioners care that God's love reaches all, and make this apparent to each other and to those we greet for the first time. We are anxious to explore the answer to the questions, "what is God up to here?" and "what is God calling us to do next?" Therefore we seek a priest who is a living example of God's grace and an inspiration to St. Stephen's as well as the surrounding community.

## Our Parish History



Our parish has a storied history with roots that go all the way back to the Colonial era and a tower bell that may be the oldest cast bell in the New World.

Our congregation was formally organized in 1791, when a group of thirty-two built their first sanctuary on a hill overlooking the Connecticut River on what is now Porges Road.

You can learn more about our history on our website.

Our present sanctuary -- built at the end of the 19th century -- is located on Main Street, just a short walk north from the East Haddam Village. Our church grounds are flanked by the Nathan Hale Park, the Rathbun Library, the historic River View Cemetery, and the town Post Office.

In addition to the main sanctuary, our facilities include a small adjoining chapel, a recently renovated Fellowship Hall, and our former Rectory, which houses our offices and classrooms. We boast a Moller pipe organ that was built in 1936. We recently completed a successful capital campaign -- assisted by a grant from the Connecticut State Commission on Culture and Tourism -- to fund needed restoration work on our towers, sanctuary and rectory roofing. The project was completed during the summer of 2011.

## Our Ministries

St. Stephen's embraces the notion of common ministry in which the entire congregation is engaged in and assumes responsibility for the ministries of the parish. In addition to the customary ministries, we have the following additional ones: Walk of the Labryinth, Eucharistic Visitation, Prayer Shawl, Prayer Team and Healing. We developed and participate in a community soup kitchen on Sundays called Harvest House. This is coordinated by our parishioners as an ecumenical outreach effort with several local churches and community organizations.



We have an active and well-attended church school and youth program run by a paid Christian Education Director with the assistance of two volunteer youth educators and parent volunteers. We consider this a very important component of our parish life. This past summer we, for the first time, organized a Vacation Bible School that drew participation from both within and outside our church community.

In the past we have organized and participated in mission trips to Honduras, Mississippi and other places in need. St. Stephen's has served as host for community outreach with breakfasts for Goodspeed Actors, as well as annual events like our Christmas Cookie Fair, Serendipity Auction and Chicken Barbecue. We also host local community activities such as Yoga and AA.



## Our Congregation

While our congregation is small, we feel we are distinct from other parishes in that we draw members across many age groups and surrounding towns. We welcome and embrace new people and families into our parish life to share our love and faith of Jesus Christ in fellowship.

As Christians, we celebrate our relationship with Jesus Christ. Therefore, worship at St. Stephen's has a natural emphasis on prayer and study of Scripture in order to follow Jesus' message as embodied in the Gospel.

Issues and changes in the larger Episcopal community that might be divisive elsewhere, are discussed and debated at St. Stephen's with open hearts, allowing personal disagreement to pass without controversy.

## Sunday Services

We have two Sunday services, Rite I at 8 am and Rite II with music at 10 am. The Rite I service regularly attracts twenty to thirty worshippers and the Rite II routinely has sixty-five or more, followed by a popular coffee hour. On Feast and Holy days it is not unusual for the church to be full to overflowing.

## Our Community

St. Stephen's could be described as the quintessential country parish one would expect to find in the village of East Haddam, Connecticut.



The Town of East Haddam, which is part of Middlesex County, has an overall population of less than 8,400 and is one of the largest towns in the state in terms of area. The town contains several villages, including the East Haddam Village, Bashan, Lake Hayward, Leesville, Little Haddam (our Historic District), Millington, Moodus and North Plain.

East Haddam, located on the Connecticut River, is also home to the Eight Mile and Salmon Rivers. The town is perhaps best known for its cultural attractions, including the Goodspeed Opera House, Gillette Castle and the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, which is located directly behind our sanctuary.

## Our Search

After fifteen years under the inspirational leadership of Reverend Rachel Thomas, St. Stephen's Church accepted her resignation in December of 2010 with deep gratitude for her ministry. We know change comes to all things. While this chapter in our life as a parish has closed, we joyfully prepare ourselves for a new chapter through our faith in Jesus Christ as we are led by the Holy Spirit to the calling of our new Rector.

## Our New Rector

What we seek in a new Rector is someone who can lead our congregation, not only as a brother or sister in Christ, but as a head and member of a welcoming Christian community.

From our surveys and focus groups, we know that our congregation regards preaching of the gospel, counseling, and pastoral care as priorities. Participation and coordination with youth ministry is also considered vital.

Our Rector would naturally empower us to maintain and grow our ministries and serve as ambassadors to the larger community.

## What can you expect from us?

Our Rector will enjoy a positive partnership with our responsible Vestry, the able assistance of our dedicated staff, and the solid support of our enthusiastic parishioners.

## Compensation and Benefits

We envision a part-time priest working 20 to 24 hours per week who, in addition to leading Sunday and other regular services, will reserve at least one day per week for office hours at our Rectory. We also want our Rector to reserve time for pastoral visitations, lay ministry meetings, and important community events.



## The Selection Process

All inquiries and submissions should be directed to Reverend Harlon Dalton, acting Diocesan Canon for Mission Leadership, who may be reached at 860-233-4481, ext. 133, or [hdalton@ctepiscopal.org](mailto:hdalton@ctepiscopal.org).

Our Search Committee will then consider the Diocesan-approved applicants and identify candidates to be interviewed. Background checks will be performed, and the parish will pay for all reasonable interview expenses. After reviewing applicants, the Search Committee will forward the names of three or four preferred candidates to the Vestry. Our Vestry will then in turn deliberate on whom to call.

Applications will be accepted through March 31, 2012. We expect to call our next Rector by the summer of 2012 and have our official installation by September.

