Welcome!

Our Mission is to be the heart and hands of Christ; nourishing people, transforming lives.

We strive to be a welcoming community for spiritual growth and miraculous expectation, where all will find hope, faith in God's abundance, help and healing, and the challenge of a deeper relationship with Christ.

*We hope you will enjoy your tour of our Church.*
The triptych on the east wall of the entrance aims to tell you all about our Church: The History, The building and especially The People of this parish. Our lives and activities, radiating outward from our altar-centered worship, are, WE hope, an image of what God's people should be about in this community and in the World. We hope you will study our display and then enjoy your tour of St. Stephen's.

As you enter the church ...

Notice the two stained glass windows displayed on each side of the doors. These 1850s windows, saved from the original 1832 St. Stephen's, were recently discovered in storage. We'll have more to say about them when you've completed your tour.
BAPTISMAL FONT

At the head of the aisle is the Baptismal Font, designed by Tiffany. Restored during the 1984 renovation of the church, it was moved to this traditional position as a symbol that Baptism is the entrance to the Christian life. It was restored in "thanksgiving for the Rectorship of Andrew F. Wissemann," who had just been consecrated 6th Bishop of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

THE WINDOWS

Possibly our greatest artistic treasures are our stained glass windows. With one exception the sanctuary windows were commissioned either from the Tiffany Glass Company of New York or Mary Tillinghast, who had been a pupil and partner of the famous John La Farge. All were created and installed in the 1890s. They were removed, restored and reinstalled in June 2000 by Serpentino Stained & Leaded Glass, Inc., of Needham, MA.
On the West:

**Tiffany**

*Resurrection Angel.*

This window exhibits the layered "drapery" glass and opalescence typical of Tiffany. Painting on the face and hair is slight and refined. Lilies, done in chunks of glass, catch the light and indicate Tiffany.

**Tillinghast**

*The Conversion of Cornelius.*

The entire window is used to tell a story. Three separate images are flashed at us and we are expected to weave the story together. Left panel shows the centurion, Cornelius; at right the angel suggests the vision which sent him to Peter; in the center, Cornelius again, this time the converted man of Faith.

**English**

*The Martyrdom of Stephen.*

The first Christian martyr and saint, Stephen is the patron saint of this parish. With realism and brilliance we witness his stoning. The Book of Acts states that "he had the face of an angel." The man in the left panel is Saul (later Paul) who witnessed the murder.
Tiffany

Cross and Doves.

Note the luminescence and subtlety of coloration and restrained painting on the wings of the doves, symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Tillinghast

Presentation in the Temple.

Luke 2:22 tells the story of bringing Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated to God. Simeon had been promised that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. Recognizing in Jesus the promised Messiah, Simeon uttered the beautiful song, Nunc Dimittis, "Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace."

The Chapel

...dedicated to the Holy Apostles, is used for Morning and Evening Prayer and week-day Eucharists. These fine windows, designed and installed by J. Wippell and Company of Exeter, England in the 1930s, tell four familiar Bible stories.
THE PULPIT
The Pulpit was built of English oak and designed by Tillinghast.

THE PULPIT PANELS
The three beautifully carved are done in a style that complements the English Gothic architecture of the church. There is a small mystery here; although the First Century of St. Stephen’s Parish (1930) states they date from the twelfth Century, several museum curators who have examined these photos are unanimous that they were carved in the late 19th century (about the time of the current building). They are done in 17th-century Flemish style, likely by a German of Flemish craftsman.

BISHOP’S CHAIR
At the entrance to the Chapel is a Bishop’s chair, found in nearly every Episcopal church, and "reserved" for the Bishop's visitations. The needlepoint on the back of the chair displays the Seal of the Diocese.

THE ALTAR RAIL
Designed by Tillinghast, It is an interpretation of a choir rail in the Cathedral of Siena, Italy. The middle section is 100 years old. The classic egg-and-dart design and acanthus leaf carving show up brilliantly against the Italian marble floor.
THE BISHOPS' GALLERY

Our Bishops' Gallery of windows is perhaps unique in the Episcopal Church. The windows honor twelve bishops who have had some connection with Western Massachusetts. The Fifth Bishop of our Diocese, Alexander Doig Stewart, originated this project.

ON THE LEFT:

Phillips Brooks
Arthur Lichtenberger
Alexander Doig Stewart
James DeWolf Perry
Andrew F. Wissemann
Lewis Bliss Whittemore

ON THE RIGHT:

Alexander Hamilton Vinton
Thomas F. Davies
William Lawrence
W. Appleton Lawrence
Henry Knox Sherrill
Robert McConnell Hatch
On the East:

**Tiffany**

*Suffer the Little Children.*

Notice the skillful painting on the faces, hair and clothing and the layered, opalescent glass.

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**Tiffany**

*St. Cecilia,*

One of the most honored martyrs of the early Church, is the patron saint of church music. She is usually shown, as here, with a musical instrument.

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**Tillinghast**

*The Crown of Life*

A favorite of many, because of the deep, intense colors and the fluid "down-sweep" of the design.

The story seems to be a great paean and tribute to children and to motherhood.
**Tiffany**

*St. John on Patmos.*

One tradition says that St. John wrote his Gospel on the Island of Patmos. Observe the fine painting of the hair, typical of Tiffany.

**Tillinghast**

*St. John.*

The unifying theme here is that the quotations are all from the Gospel or Epistles of St. John. “Beloved, now are we the Sons of God,” left; center panel figure is probably John the Baptist, referred to in John's Gospel as a "burning and shining light"; and "Mary stood without..." is a quotation from John's Gospel.

**Tillinghast**

*The Lord is My Shepherd.*

This simple scene with shepherd piping and a quotation from Jeremiah reminds us at God will always love us as a shepherd loves his flock.
The Balcony

The Conversion of Lydia
This glorious tower window, (thought to be by Gorham) depicts the account in Acts 16 of Lydia’s baptism after listening to what Paul was saying in Philippi. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” Acts 16:13-15

The AUSTIN ORGAN

Though it must be heard to be appreciated, St. Stephen's has a fine Austin organ, Opus 275, given in 1910. The console was replaced in 1949 and the organ tonally rebuilt in 1956. An Austin antiphonal organ was added in 1969 in the balcony. In 1984-85 a new console was completed and moved to the present position behind the altar. This organ and our fine choir add to the great joy and beauty of our Sunday services. High above the choir are 12 windows displaying the traditional symbols of the Apostles.
The Artists

Mary Elizabeth Tillinghast studied stained glass in Paris under Carolus-Duran and Henner. She established herself in New York in 1882 and at one time assisted John La Farge with his windows. She received a gold medal at the Chicago Exposition in 1893 and gold and bronze medals at the Charleston Exposition in 1902. She has important windows in the Home for Friendless Children, Grace Church, the New York Historical Society, the Allegheny Observatory, and the Hotel Savoy. Miss Tillinghast was the first to realize the difference that the electric lighting of churches would make in the effect of window designs.

Louis Comfort Tiffany (February 18, 1848 – January 17, 1933) was an American artist and designer who worked in the decorative arts and is best known for his work in stained glass. He is the American artist most associated with the Art Nouveau and Aesthetic movements. Tiffany was affiliated with a prestigious collaborative of designers known as the Associated Artists, which included Lockwood de Forest, Candace Wheeler, and Samuel Colman. Tiffany designed stained glass windows and lamps, glass mosaics, blown glass, ceramics, jewelry, enamels and metalwork. [1] Tiffany used opalescent glass in a variety of colors and textures to create a unique style of stained glass.


A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR PARISH

In 1830 one Edward A. Newton assembled a group of interested people on June 25 in Pomeroy’s Coffee House on Park Square to form an Episcopal congregation. Pittsfield was a community of about 3500 people. Massachusetts citizens were still taxed by the state to support the congregational Church, the official "recognized" religion. Park Square was dominated by the famous Elm tree (Which survived until 1864) and by a splendid congregational church designed by Charles Bulfinch.

Two years after the historic July meeting, a new Town Hall and the first St. Stephen’s were completed adjacent to each other.

Our first church building, a beautiful stone Gothic structure, sat astride what is now Allen Street. A stone tower and stained glass windows were added about 1850. Two windows are restored and on display in our entrance. The 1832 Town Hall still exists next door.

In 1889 the stone Gothic church was demolished to make room for a larger church.
THE PRESENT BUILDING

The present church was built in 1889-90 under the Rectorship of The Rev. William Wilberforce Newton, whose portrait now hangs in the Narthex. The mortgage was paid by 1892, and the church consecrated by the eminent bishop Phillips Brooks, author of the universally known Christmas carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Built of Longmeadow red sandstone in the “Tudor Gothic" style, the present building was designed to satisfy people theologically and emotionally oriented toward the Church of England. Gothic architecture expressed a romantic desire to "make a church look like a church."

In 1984 a much-needed renovation was completed, including moving the altar forward to its present freestanding position, extending the altar rail, and adding the beautiful marble floor in the sanctuary.

As part of the centennial celebration of the consecration of this building, the Narthex (or entryway) was redecorated in 1993-94 to make it more "Visitor Friendly”. In 1997 an elevator was added to make the church more accessible.

We hope that you have enjoyed your visit. Do come and worship with us.

Eucharists:

Sunday  8:00 AM and 10:00 AM (9:00 AM in the summer)
        9:00 AM Christian education for all ages
Wednesday  8:00 AM (with Bible study)
Thursday    10:00 AM (with Bible study)
Saturday   5:00 PM

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The Episcopal Church Welcomes You