



Saint Stephen's Parish

Park Square ▪ 67 East Street ▪ Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

OUR MISSION is to be the heart and hands of Christ: nourishing people, transforming lives.

Hello dear friends of St. Stephens;

We hope you and those you love are doing well – staying healthy and safe. We miss worshipping with you, singing with you, being with you. The past couple of years have been full of changes for all of us at St. Stephen's – Cricket's retirement, a pandemic, increased racial tensions, and John's passing. Through all of our tribulations, we still feel the love of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We are grateful for all of our blessings.

Today we would like to share with you that we have called a new rector. Dr. Rev. Nina Pooley will be joining us in February. Nina comes to us from St. Bartholomew's in Yarmouth Maine. She will be joined by her husband Ken, adult daughters, Mackenzie and Channing, dog Finn, and a few cats.

In her letter to the Search Committee Nina said, "I'm drawn to many of the images and descriptions of your ministry in your profile. Perhaps the most immediately compelling is your parish's consistent, compassionate response to emerging needs in the Pittsfield community. (From St. Stephen's Table feeding ministry, Laundry Love and Cathedral of the Beloved, to your involvement with BIO to confront issues of social justice, and so much more.) So many parishes speak of fighting injustice, but few respond by addressing immediate need and creating long-term change."

You are welcome to view some of her preachings on the St. Bartholomew's facebook page:
StBartsYarmouth

The calling of this Rector was the coordinated efforts of the Profile and Search Committees and the Vestry. The Profile Committee, Craig Reynolds, Maribeth Barney, Liz Trapani, Susan Wojtasik, and Chris Plankey, truly captured the heart of St. Stephen's and attracted qualified candidates. The Search Committee, David Nevins, Alec Gilman, Susan LeBourdais, Craig Smith, Josie Ellis, Cathy Carchedi, John Garinther, Chris Perry and Wendy Coakley did their due diligence to find the best match for us. A few weeks ago, the Vestry invited Nina for a conversation which we did in person here at St. Stephen's using all safety protocols. Both the Search Committee and Vestry voted unanimously to call Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley as our new Rector.

We are excited to have Nina guide us on the next part of our journey as a congregation. She has energy, vision, compassion, and an empathic way of relating to others. Because of John Tarrant's work, our staff, and the Vestry, we have a firm foundation from which to grow.

Thank you all for your patience, support, and prayers. A special thank you to David DeSmith, our Bridge Rector, and our office staff, Sarah Morrison, Bert Boos, and Debbie Stillman.

Peace and blessing to you during this holiday season,

Tom Dillon and Erin Sullivan
Co-Wardens

The Episcopal Church welcomes you.

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