

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Worship/Annual Meeting
February 8, 2025 10:00 a.m.**

Voluntary “Alleluia, song of gladness” Robert Farlee

Hymn 610 “Lord, whose love through humble service” *Blaenafren*

Welcome (and Call to Order)

The Opening Acclamation

Presider: Arise, shine, for our light has come.

People: **And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

A Collect for our Parish

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Let us pray.

Holy God, lover of our souls, we come before you as people created by and for love: as we gather to worship and do the work of our parish, allow us to hear again your word of love, to renew our trust in its breadth and depth. In the sacrifice of your love for us, may we find renewal and be your love in the world, in the name of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People
Thanks be to God

The Gospel Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

Rector’s Reflection, and State of the Church Report
Property, Finance, Wardens

The Prayers of the People, Form VI, BCP

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Douglas our Bishop;
Miguelina our Bishop-elect,
Nina our Rector, and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
For those on our prayer list: Ken, Keith, Marcus, Drew; Robertine, Paul, Glen, Thom, Ted, Sophia, Natasha, Philip, Scott; Charley; Susan; Henry; Shirley; Bill; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in Minneapolis; the Middle East; Sudan, Venezuela and Iran.

Please include your intercessions.

For this parish as we reflect on the year past:
We lift to you our cares, and the ongoing challenges of this time:
Please add your own petitions.
Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life:
We give thanks for the many faithful people who sustain this community:
 those who serve in leadership roles,
 those who provide pastoral care,
 those who cook and serve to-go meals for St. Stephen's Table,
 those who support our worship, both online and in-person,
 those who care for our youth and those who teach Sunday School,
 those who help us be good stewards of our resources,
 including our building and our financial assets;
 and the members of our parish staff.
Please add your own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died,
that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

For those who have died in the past year: Harriet Cuyler, William Engle, Donald George, Kathryn Lepore, Susan Rock, Naoma Sammons, Arlene Stockley.

Please add your own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Concluding collect

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, that in our vocation and ministry we may truly and devoutly serve you through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Peace *(page 5 in booklet)*

Offertory Anthem “Arise, shine! for your light has come” Allen Pote

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Arise, arise, and shine like the sun
and all nations shall come,
and all kings will be drawn to the brightness of your rising.

The sun shall no longer be your light,
nor the brightness of the moon by night.

But the Lord shall be your everlasting light,
your God will be your everlasting light.
Arise, shine for your light has come. Amen.

Isaiah 60: 1,3,19

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 6 in booklet)*

Communion Anthem “Christ is the world’s true light” W.K. Stanton

Christ is the world’s true light its Captain of salvation;
The Day Star clear and bright of every race and nation.
New life, new hope awakes for all who own his sway;
Freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting.
When Christ is throned as Lord, all shall forsake their fear;
To ploughshare beat the sword, to pruning hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great Name unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame, that hinder to enthrone thee.
The world has waited long, has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong, come Prince of Peace and reign.

G.W. Briggs

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Announcements *Work of Annual Meeting*

Survey and Stewardship Reports
Presentation of Slate/Nominations and Election
Thanksgiving for outgoing vestry member

Adjournment of Annual meeting

Closing Prayer

Ephesians 3:20,21

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn “You are the salt of the earth” Marty Haugen
(See insert – Bring Forth the Kingdom)

Dismissal *(page 10 in booklet)*



PARISH NOTICES

WHO ARE WE? St. Stephen's Parish is a community of people who together seek to serve our community, drawing strength and joy from worshipping together. We don't all believe the same, act the same, vote the same, or dress the same – but we strive to love the same, as Christ loved and served all people.

ST. STEPHEN'S TABLE - Gifts may be made by sending a donation to the church or through our website. On the website, select "Give," to find the link to the online giving page. Select "St. Stephen's Table from the Fund menu.

SUNDAY FUNDAY – February 22, gather in the Sears Room at 9:50 a.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 – Ashes to Go on Allen St., noon-2:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. worship in the sanctuary.:

DIOCESAN LENTEN BOOK CONVERSATION *For Such A Time As This*
An Emergency Devotional by Hanna Reichel, Thursdays in March on Zoom from
7-8 PM. Rev. Nina will facilitate. March 5, 12, 19 & 26.

2026 CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES REQUESTED – Please send new emails, phone numbers, address etc. to the church office.

SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE BACK OF TODAY'S INSERT –
Please fill it out after today's meeting!



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY – Scan the QR code to find our giving form, or text “giveststephens\$youramount” to 7325 (example: giveststephens\$25 will donate \$25.) Google Pay accepted. Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

Bottles/Cans Toter- John Garinther Cardboard-Breakdown – Mark Miller

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTORS	Don Phipps, Dan Moon
LAY MINISTERS	Elizabeth Trapani, Paula Morey
ALTAR GUILD	Bill Frazier, Diane Forsyth, Angie Moon
GREETERS	Laura Kelly, Diane Forsyth
VESTRY GREETER	Chris Plankey
CRUCIFER	Jim Alden
COFFEE HOUR	Caleb Dillon-Harmon

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Worship: Compline: Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 p.m., Zoom
Saturday 14, 5p.m. Sunday, February 15, 10 a.m.

St. Stephen's Table: Thursday & Friday, Grab and Go, 4:30 p.m.

Meetings: AA: Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at 10:00 a.m. NA: Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Dining Room

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, we pray for: Those on our prayer list, see page 4

We pray for those serving in the armed forces and their families:

MAJ Andrew B., CPT Nichols P., 1LT Curran J.D., Lance CPL Chad L., SPC Amanda D., Pvt. Corey F.D., Army Ranger Sean J., Micah H.

We pray for our community

The Christian Center
Congregation of Knesset Israel
Temple Anshe Amunim
The Supreme Court

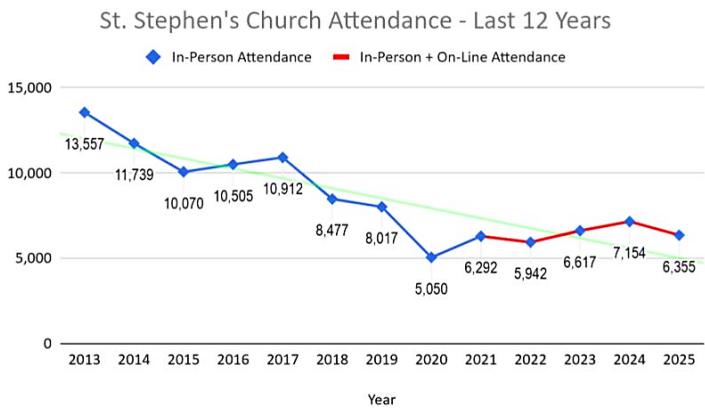
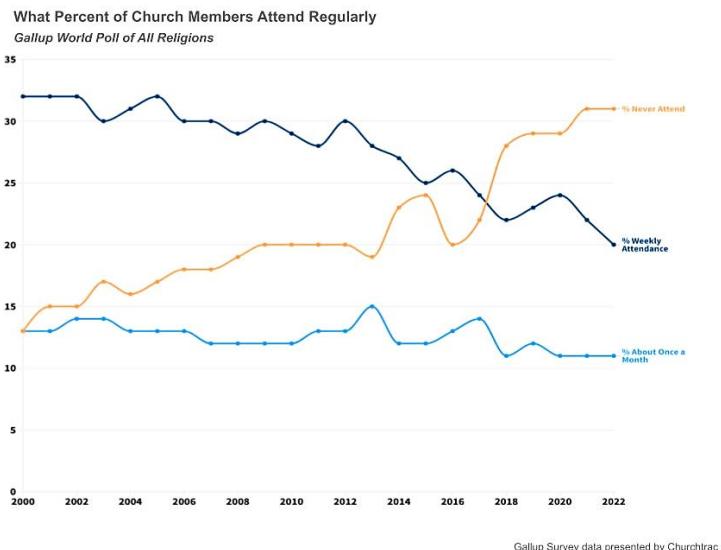
In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

Good Shepherd, Clinton;
The Rt. Rev. Gordon P. Scruton,
V111 Bishop, retired
Office of Government Relations;
Episcopal Communicators

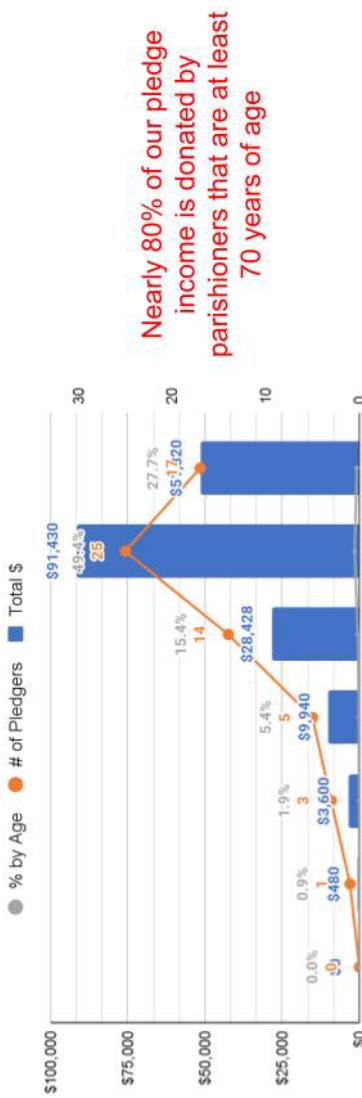
In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Hong Kong Kung Hui
Monday Diocese of South West
Tanganyika (Tanzania)
Tuesday Diocese of Western
Tanganyika (Tanzania)
Wednesday Diocese of Tarime
(Tanzania)
Thursday: Diocese of Tasmania
(Australia)
Friday: Diocese of Taungoo
(Myanmar)
Saturday: Diocese of Temotu
(Melanesia)

Church Attendance Trends



2025 Annual Pledge by Age



Age	Total \$	# of Pledgers	Avg Pledge	% by Age
20s	\$0	0	\$0	0.0%
30s	\$480	1	\$480	0.9%
40s	\$3,600	3	\$1,200	1.9%
50s	\$9,940	5	\$1,988	5.4%
60s	\$28,428	14	\$2,031	15.4%
70s	\$91,430	25	\$3,657	49.4%
80+	\$51,320	17	\$3,019	27.7%

Operating Budget 2025

This displays a summary of the major categories of *income* and *expenses* for the 2025 Operating Budget, the Parish's main budget. Proposed Budget for 2026 is rightmost.

	Budgeted	Actual	Delta	2026 Budget
Revenues	\$	\$	%	Coming Attractions!
Schedule A-Plate Offerings	9,040	8,729	96.6	9,100
Schedule B - Pledges Payments to Parish	240,500	223,191	92.8	248,927
Schedule C-Genl Investment Income	71,419	67,793	93.9	72,927
Schedule D - Genl Purpose Income	59,170	65,086	110.0	61,170
Total Revenues	380,129	364,801	96.0	392,124
Expenses				
Schedule H-Community Outreach	79,557	76,295	95.9	82,340
Schedule I - Salaries	235,098	231,600	98.5	243,540
Schedule J - Empl Benefits	9,798	11,921	121.7	10,190
Schedule K-Utilities	34,500	33,037	95.7	37,230
Schedule L - Office Expense	15,620	14,622	93.6	14,700
Schedule M-Christian Ed	2,300	1,234	53.7	1,850
Schedule N-Expense Reimbursement	1,700	1,891	111.3	1,950
Schedule O - Telephone	2,600	2,753	105.9	2,800
Schedule P-Altar Supplies	1,100	1,171	106.5	1,100
Schedule Q - Music Expenses	1,000	1,051	105.1	1,000
Schedule R - General Expenses	3,500	4,045	115.6	5,212
Schedule S-Property Expense	79,300	79,123	99.8	85,813
Total Expenses	466,073	458,748	98.4	487,725
Deficit (income - expenditures)	(85,944)	(93,947)	109.3	(95,600)
Return of Capital (reduces endowment)	84,436	93,947*	111.3	95,600
Net for Year	(1,158)	0		0

Note: cents not shown.

* Special note: as an accounting issue, if one includes the \$20,000 taken from the Peek-Bell Fund for Rector's Housing, General Purpose Income decreases by \$20,000 and return of Capital increases to \$134,451, but the "Net for Year" remains the same.

Summary

We brought in less revenue than budgeted:	(\$ 15,328) or 96.0% of planned
We spent slightly less than budgeted:	\$ 7,325 or 98.4% of planned
The actual deficit was larger than budgeted	\$ 25,089 or 11.3% larger
We reduced our endowment by about 1/12 th	\$ 114,451 or - 8.04%

**St. Stephen's Slate for Vestry, Officers, Convention Delegates
Annual Meeting February 8, 2026**

Continuing on Vestry

John Garinther	Caleb Dillon-Harmon
David Nevin	James Brennan
J. Christopher Perry	William Morey
Alfred Symonds	Christine Furcinite-Reynolds
	Leah Luczynski

Electing Today

Officers (elected annually for a one year term)

Co-Warden	John Garinther
Co-Warden	David Nevin
Clerk	Christopher Plankey (non-voting)
Treasurer	J. Christopher Perry
Assistant Treasurer	Alfred Symonds

Vestry Members at-large Anne Williams

Diocesan Convention Delegates - Co-Wardens, Treasurer
Alternate - Assistant Treasurer

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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mail@ststephenspittsfield.org (e-mail)

ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com (news items) www.ststephenspittsfield.org

Our Staff

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector
nina.pooley@revnina.org

Joy Mullen, Director of Music
jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org

Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator
smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org

Dan Moon,
Director of St Stephen's Table
dmoon@pittsfield.net

Bert Boos, Office Assistant
bboos@ststephensfield.org

Weekday Sextons – Ecuadorian Women's Co-op
Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

The Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher

800-322-8513 www.diocesewma.org

Welcome to Worship at St. Stephen's

We are delighted to have you with us today as we worship together.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is an inclusive parish welcoming all people - regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or creed.

God loves you, and so do we!

All Are Welcome to Receive from God's Table.

Each week we share the bread and the wine: the gifts of God, given for the people of God. We invite you to receive communion, but, if you'd rather receive a blessing, please come forward and indicate that by crossing your arms across your chest.

Receiving Communion:

The bread - When you come forward hold your hands out together, palm up. The clergy person will place a wafer in your hands, and say, "The body of Christ." Your response: "Amen." (Please let the clergy know if you'd prefer a gluten free wafer.)

The wine - is offered by chalice bearers on either side of the aisle in front of the altar area. Those sitting on the right should choose the right side chalice, those sitting on the left, choose the left side chalice. The chalice bearer will offer the wine, saying, "The Blood of Christ." Your response: "Amen." You may receive the wine by taking a small sip from the chalice, or by dipping your wafer in the wine, taking care not to touch the wine with your fingers. You may also choose to hear the words and respond without choosing to partake of the wine.

Children are always welcome at worship!!

Families are welcome to sit wherever they wish. There are child-friendly books in a bookshelf near a coloring station in the back, on the right side of the sanctuary. There's a second coloring station on the front left, where there is also our **Kids' Own Space activity area**. There's a Nursery Nook in the Guild Room for caregivers of infants and toddlers who need to take a break during worship. Caregivers, please come and go as your child needs to - for their safety, **we ask that children be accompanied at all times**. Sunday school is offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, September through May.

Collection Plates are located at each entrance. All gifts gratefully accepted.

Restrooms are located in our Parish House: Exit the sanctuary via the doors on either side of the altar, follow the signs.