



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Aug 25, 2023)

St. Stephen's Harrisburg, Springfield

101 E. Church St., Harrisburg, IL 62946, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)

canon@episcopalspringfield.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

16

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

1

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

\$10800

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options

Negotiable

Dental

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks

**One month, including 5
Sundays (standard)**

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget

Sabbatical Provision

No

Travel/Auto Account

Other Professional Account

\$40,000 is available for ALL clergy costs.

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

One of the most memorable moments of success was when the Diocese of Springfield was planning the visits from the three bishop nominees, and St. Stephen's was asked to host one of the "Walk Abouts". We were delighted and honored. Although the diocese offered money to cater the event, we preferred to hold a potluck. Since our church is known for food and fellowship, it was a lovely evening and when the newly ordained bishop, Bishop Burgess, made his first annual visit, he remarked in his sermon how at home and welcomed he felt at the event.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

In preparing for the church of the future, we know we need to increase our membership. By offering more educational studies, we could invite friends. We have not offered Bible study for several years, and we need a leader who can lead us. Our members actively pursue friends that are unsatisfied in their church or do not attend anywhere, but we need young people. We have discussed creating a website, but we do not have anyone at present with the skill set to do so. Consequently, this is an area that needs future work.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

leadership, pastoral care, youth leadership, communication skills, evangelism, Embrace technology, Preaching and education

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

St. Stephen's is low church and uses Rite II almost exclusively. St. Stephen's has held ecumenical services and other special services to augment its spirituality. In the past, we have held joint services with the Presbyterians and exchanged services. In addition, we have exchanged priests with the Cairo Church of the Redeemer. We have held in-home worships in the past for house blessings and, of course, a potluck was also enjoyed.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Since we are a small mission church, we all have responsibilities at the church to make the church a place of inclusiveness and spirituality. When a new person or family visits and returns, we give them a job. We are a church where people attend services and are welcomed and acknowledged. We are a true church family, and we try our best to make newcomers feel welcome and connected.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

As previously stated, we are a church family, and we look out for one another through pastoral care. By calling, texting, and emailing when we haven't seen an individual in a while, we stay connected. Our priest will frequently offer special healing prayers and prayers for safe travel. He also offers home visits to give communion to members who are unable to attend services, as does our licensed Eucharistic minister. We list our prayer list in the bulletin each week, so members can continue to pray all week for those listed. Our worshipping community does not do many physical activities together, but we do offer a wheelchair lift that was made possible by a UTO grant. The church has many stairs, and the lift is a great help with some of our less mobile members. Through these activities we assist our members through spiritual and emotional support.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

St. Stephen's is active in our community. We help support local groups like Shop with a Cop, Team Red, White, & Blue (a veterans' mental health group), Christian Community Compassion Center-Homeless Shelter (also known as the 4C's), and our food pantry. We used to host AA meetings in the past, but the group found another location. For many years, we held an Annual Italian Dinner. It was a five-course dinner all prepared by our church members and served to those attending. It was always fun to spotlight our beautiful church to our community that otherwise might not ever enter the building and for the community to see our church family working closely together. The former Arch Deacon came to many of these dinners and sang Italian songs and his son would play his accordion. We have also held BBQ chicken dinners and card/luncheon parties. Engaging in these activities creates a connectiveness within our community.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

As small as our church is, we are active in the diocese. We always have a delegate attend Synod. One member serves on the Diocesan Board of Trustees. Many members have attended Cursillo and continue to assist with the annual event. Several of our female members attend the Hale Deanery ECW gatherings, and one member has served as a delegate to National Convention. Most of our children have attended the diocesan church camp.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

We have gathered cans of soup for the past several years for Souper Bowl Sunday food drive and donated through our local state senator's office. We have collected socks and underpants for underserved school children and donated through a local group, the Fowler-Bonan Foundation. We also have several members that participate in the Christmas Shoebox for children through Samaritan's Purse.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

We encourage all members to tithe 10% and we are financially stable. As stated previously, all members are asked to help with jobs at church, so time and talent contributions are important, too. We have a dedicated member who prints our bulletins, emails us important news, and organizes the volunteer schedule. Others volunteer with music preparation, counting and depositing our contributions, altar care, and cleaning.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

One of our top priorities is to enhance our spiritual journey by remaining a conservative low church. We typically use Rite II. When New Hampshire ordained the first openly gay bishop, our congregation voted to only send money to our diocese and stop contributing to the national church. One family left over this decision, but many of our members kept in touch with them. After many years and the death of his wife, the husband of this couple returned to worship with us. As with any family, conflict is difficult. It isn't always discussed, and some have made decisions without consulting the Bishop's Committee. We have lost a member after she read the national church's positions on transgender issues and abortion. To date, we have not persuaded her to return, even after explaining our diocese and especially our church are not in lockstep with the national liberal views on many subjects. A priest alienated a gay couple that was welcomed by the congregation. The Bishop's Committee does not know what he told them, but they will not return. The congregation tries to avoid discussing politics. At coffee hour, we keep it out of public conversations to avoid unnecessary conflict.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Although our church is more conservative, we have embraced women priests and female leadership in worship. We have had many changes through the years with various priests that held various points of view. We have always tried to adjust accordingly. We have been flexible when our leadership changed, and we have even had to adjust our time of worship to accommodate a shared priest. We have learned we must stay flexible for the good of our church and congregation. Some former members of our congregation have left over small, petty disagreements and we have learned you cannot always please everyone. But again, we have stayed in touch with those that have left and frequently ask if they will return to worship with our church family.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Fr. Tim Goodman	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2011-10	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Fr. Richard Swan	Priest-in-Charge Shared Ministry	2004-05	2000-07

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Fr. Charles Walthal	Priest-in-Charge Shared Ministry	2001-05	2003-12

We have shared many priests through the years with other congregations in Southern Illinois. Often the priest would do a service here then hurry off to another church. We can be flexible but would truly love to have not only Mass on Sunday but some sort of adult education and even a mid-week service.

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Contact:
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Worshipping Community Web site: N/A

Media Links:

Online References:
N/A

Languages Significantly Represented:
English

Provide Worship or Classes in:
English

References

Bishop: 217.525.1876 bishop@episcopalspringfield.org
Rt. Rev. Brian Burgess

Diocesan Transition Minister 217.525.1876 Canon@episcopalspringfield.org
Rev. Cn. Mark Evans

Current Warden/Board Chair 618.264.5753 helen54williams@gmail.com
Ms. Hellen Williams

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair
Ms. Hellen Williams

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

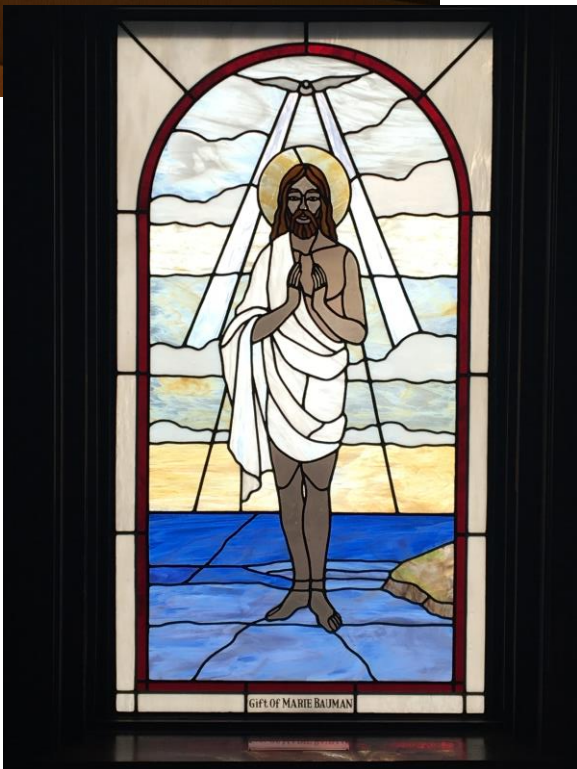
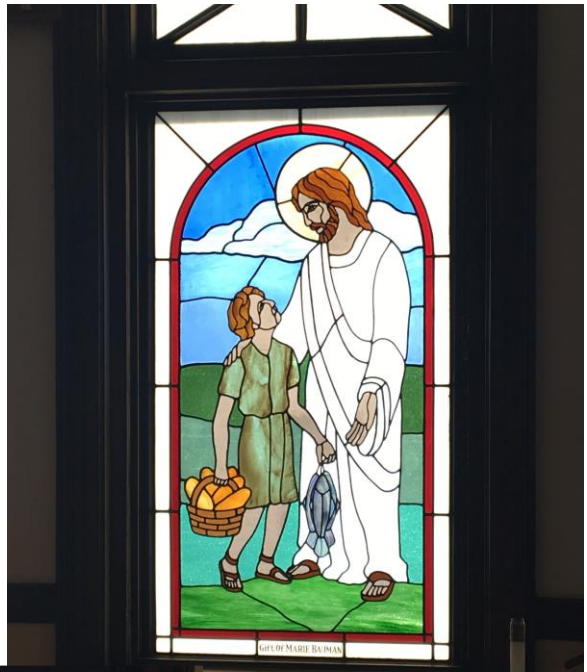
Harrisburg, Illinois

St. Stephen's is a small, tight community of faith that has seen changes through the years. Started in 1978 by five couples who met in each other's homes, it was sanctioned by the diocese in 1980. The original church was purchased and repaired by the congregation. Although it wasn't a grand building, the love and fellowship of the church family made it feel special. In 1999, the former Mitchell-Carnegie Library was purchased, and St. Stephen's moved to its new home. Since the move, we have made many improvements, and it is now a beautiful small church in the heart of downtown Harrisburg.

Our congregation comes from many different communities, representing five counties surrounding Harrisburg. Most of the counties in Southern Illinois are sparsely populated and many of the lower sixteen counties have very low population because of the Shawnee National Forest. However, The Shawnee National Forest draws many tourists and offers many outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and ATV riding. Due to its proximity, the city of Harrisburg uses the tagline, "Harrisburg, Gateway to the Shawnee National Forest." Another area of interest near Harrisburg is Southern Illinois University. Harrisburg is only twenty-five miles from Marion, IL and forty-one miles from Carbondale, IL, which is home to the Southern Illinois University. SIU offers many cultural and sporting events, like most major universities which is another enhancement to St. Stephens.



ST STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WELLES
1000 W. 10TH ST. WELLES
MINNESOTA 55081



Our lovely stained-glass windows.





Confirmation 2009



BBQ CHICKEN FUNDRAISER
Saturday, August 28, 2004
11:00 am to 2:00 pm



Photos and a ticket from one of our BBQ Chicken fundraisers.



Italian Dinner entertainment.
Our pianist, Melinda Tolley; the former Arch-Deacon, Shawn Denney; and one of our priests during this time, Fr. Gene Tucker.





More photos from one of the Italian Dinner Fundraisers.



Home parties, house blessings, and great fellowship from the past where our congregation met to eat, visit, and worship.





A photo of the front steps of the church our first year worshipping at our current location.

Card party fundraiser guests.

