

Vestry

What is a Vestry? The Vestry is a board of directors for the church. Members are elected to rotating three year terms at the annual parish meeting in January. There are two Wardens, (chairs) a Clerk (recording secretary) and Treasurer in addition to the regular members. The presiding officer of the vestry is the Rector. The Vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. The basic responsibilities of the Vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances. Some of the areas that Vestry members oversee are finance, publicity and communication, stewardship, and buildings and grounds.

Romans 12:8

If it is exhortation, he must exhort; if it is contributing, he must do so with sincerity; if it is leadership, he must do so with diligence; if it is showing mercy, he must do so with cheerfulness.

Communications

How we reach out to each other and articulate our mission and activities to the community around us. Communications includes the Banner, press releases, photography, advertisements, keeping the website and Facebook pages up to date.

Psalms 19:2

Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge.

Buildings and Grounds



St Stephen's large campus, church, parish hall, rectory and two rental properties require a close

eye to keep them in good shape. From small repairs that require only a screwdriver to major renovations, keeping the “plant” in good working order is an important investment in the future of St Stephen’s.

Luke 12:42

And the Lord said, who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

Fellowship



We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing. Whether it’s catching up with friends at coffee hour, volunteering at the annual Fall Fair, bringing our assorted pets to the Blessing of the Animals, eating lobster at the Beach Bake or grilling hot dogs at the Memorial Day picnic, long lasting friendships and traditions form at St Stephen’s.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Ushers

Ushers are the first impression a potential new member has of a church. Greeting arriving parishioners and visitors, passing the collection plate and assisting at communion are just the basics.

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Choir



St Stephen's choir, under the direction of Mark van Schenkoff, has a well-earned reputation for creating a glorious noise to the lord. In addition to the 10am Sunday service, the Choir gives several concerts and participates in additional services during Easter and Christmas.

Ephesians 5:19

Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.

Stewardship

Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. The

tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the Biblical practice of “tithing,” which means to give back a tenth of our earnings to God (Numbers 18:26). The Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it’s also about contributing time and talents, and volunteering for ministry and mission. It’s about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity.

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.

Outreach

St. Stephen's parishioners are engaged with the world and find many ways in their daily lives to reach out to those in need. We look for ways for the parish as a whole to work on issues and projects that reflect our commitment to help others in our communities and the world beyond by identifying volunteer opportunities and supporting local organizations especially in the areas of families affected by poverty and people confronting crisis. From our annual Blood Drive to the Youth Group food drive for Our Lady of Fatima food pantry, we reach out to our neighbors.

Matthew 25:35

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in.

more photos:

