

PROFILE FOR PRIEST IN CHARGE SEARCH

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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CHURCH HISTORY

The first known Episcopal service was held on April 26, 1867 in the Methodist Meeting Hall and led by Rev. E. Peake. Work on the original St. Stephen's Church started in October 1870 on the NW corner of Martin and Forest Street and the first service was held January 29, 1871. In January 1870 Mr. Matthew Lennon was appointed lay reader under the Bishop's License and served until ill health prevented continuation in 1887.

In 1948, under Rev. Oberholtzer, St. Stephen's changed from a mission to become a self-supporting parish. On June 6, 1948 Fr. Oberholtzer became the last vicar and the first priest of St. Stephen.

Under Rev. Daghish, St. Stephen's built a combination church and parish hall and the first classroom wing at the current location. The first service was held on September 22, 1957. The current church was consecrated December 15, 1966. In 2009 a Lychgate was built at the entrance to the church and is dedicated to the farm families of Gilroy.

In 2018 there were two successful fund drives. These drives provided funds to re-roof the north classroom wing and refurbish four stained glass windows.

OUR VISSION/MISSION

St Stephen's Episcopal Church is a loyal and loving group of diverse people with a strong sense of family and a desire to be faithful witnesses to Christ Jesus and seek God's will in all we do and say. By the Grace of God, we will continue to share our mission with a growing community.

As Christians, our mission is to prepare the World for the return of Christ by:

- Loving the Lord our God and our Neighbors
- Making disciples for Christ
- Growing in the power of his Word

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

- **Formation and pastoral care:** reinforce liturgy and music; enhance children, youth and family worship; expand adult formation; recruit and train Lay Eucharistic Ministers to assist in worship services and pastoral visits.
- **Stewardship, outreach and mission:** increase membership, leadership development and discernment of ministries; increase pledging and planned giving; strengthen community outreach and missionary support.
- **Communication, finance and administration:** utilize digital media to enhance communication; continue to adopt, simplify and implement best practices in our financial reporting; continue to work toward a balanced budget; if need be, collaborate with another Episcopal church to share resources and enhance the efficiency of administrative operations at both churches.
- **Building and grounds:** continue the renovation and repairs of the church's four buildings as funds permit, recruit and train volunteers to provide custodial grounds keeping services for the church campus.

At the spring Vestry Retreat, the Vestry voted to focus on growing the congregation including attracting children. Also, they voted to form a Search Committee to begin the process of finding a new Rector to replace Fr. C. A. "Terry" Burley who retires June 30, 2019.

Membership and Worship Services: The 2017 Parochial Report lists 161 members, 151 of whom are active members. 144 are adults; seven are children. Combined average attendance on Sunday at the 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Wednesday services is 55. The parish welcomed nine new members during 2017 while only losing two.

Finances and Staff: St. Stephens is staffed by one part time priest. The office administrator duties are shared by volunteers from the congregation. According to the Parochial Report, the parish has 25 pledging units. Operating revenues (plate offerings, pledges and regular support) totaled \$151,831 in 2017. On the expense side, total expenses for 2017 reached \$ 155,418 resulting in a deficit of \$3,587

Liturgy and Music: Music is provided by a volunteer musician, Michael Barnes, at both services with a mixture of organ, keyboard, piano, baritone horn and bells. The hymns come from both the hymnal and a song book. On occasion music is presented with guitars. The congregation is receptive to different music presentations.

Church Organizations: St. Stephen's has a strong tradition of lay leadership. The Vestry consists of 7 members plus the Treasurer, Clerk and the Rector. Meetings are chaired by Senior Warden Richard Wallstrom. Organizations and ministry groups of St. Stephen's include: Altar Guild, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, lectors and ushers, the Wednesday morning Bible Study, the Daughter's of the King and the Men's Fellowship.

Adult Education: There are many adult education programs and events. They include Bible Study, Lenten soup and salad dinners, the Seder dinner and short religious studys.

Youth and Children Education: We are prepared to re-launch Sunday School. The possibility of this is dependent on attracting families with children to St. Stephens.

Outreach: St. Stephens contributes 20% of its funds to outreach, 10% to the Diocese and 10% other outreach organizations. St. Stephens operates a Resource Center for people in need. They provide non-perishable food, used and new clothing and shoes and bag lunches. This service is provided Tuesday and Thursday mornings. St. Stephens sponsors a Boy Scout troop and supports Kairos Prison Ministry, Cross Motorcycle Ministry, Power of Women Embracing Recovery (POWER), Classical Conversations, a Christian based home schooling group, TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) and recently a children's music program called Suzuki Violins.

Fellowship and Fund Raising: St. Stephen's host a series of fellowship opportunities throughout the year including: Mardi Gras, the Maundy Thursday Pass-Over meal, Lenten Soup Suppers, the St. Patrick's Day Dinner and silent auction, Easter Brunch and egg hunt, our Parish 4th of July Picnic, Annual Garage Sale, Blessing of the Animals, the Holiday Arts and Craft Fair, October Fest, Stewardship In-gathering, and Twelfth Night. There is also a Ladies Spring Tea and Christmas Tea to support the Resource Center. All events are open to neighbors and the public. St. Stephens also hosts the Diocesan Most Honored Women Day.

Our Community: Gilroy is centrally located in the Diocese of El Camino Real. Gilroy is also located close Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Jose. Gilroy is also known for its annual Garlic Festival bringing visitors from around the world. It also has an amusement park, Gilroy Gardens, dedicated to horticultural learning and is the site of the Circus Trees. Gilroy is close to the beaches and several State Parks. Besides having plenty of shopping selections and restaurants Gilroy is within easy driving distance of many attractions in the San Francisco bay area.

We are seeking a Part-Time Priest to:

- Welcome and actively involve new members, including those with children or youth;
- Preach and teach with enthusiasm and clarity;
- Interpret scripture and the liturgy of the Episcopal church in their historical context and apply them to the present;
- Address with compassion the needs of individual parishioners who are fearful of change, or are facing health, financial, mobility and mortality challenges;
- Lead us through the transition process to a new beginning.
- Continue and promote the healing service at St. Stephens