



ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH WEST VANCOUVER

PARISH PROFILE 2014



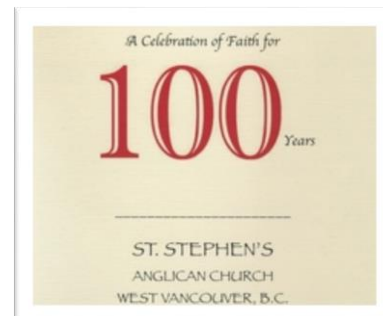
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Mission Statement

*We are a community-minded Church
discovering together
what life can be like when lived from a place
of Faith, Hope, Love and Purpose.*

Parish Description



St. Stephen's is fortunate to have a group of dedicated parishioners who are involved with the church in many ways. Over the years strong bonds of friendship have extended from St. Stephen's to the community and has created a profile as a warm and respectful place which recognizes the many talents of those involved in church life.

Many parishioners contribute talent to the fund raising, stewardship, administration, social and fellowship activities of the church. Many keep St. Stephen's visible in the community by serving on fund raising boards, community boards and at community events. Others contribute time by keeping the parishioners aware of the concern the church has for their wellbeing. All the contributions of time and talent given to St. Stephens is keeping the church healthy and viable.



The warmth of fellowship is apparent at St. Stephen's. Most parishioners have known each other for years and offer help, kindness and fellowship. Newcomers react to the warmth and caring and like to attend our services, coffee hours and events. In becoming more inclusive of those of other ethnic backgrounds in our community, the acceptance of the inevitability of change will be required and an incoming Rector would be appreciated in seeing us through this transition.

Our parishioners are mainly seniors complemented by a few younger people and children which is a reflection of the area contained within the geographical boundaries of the Parish. We have three Wardens, both women and men, each of whom serve a three year term with a new warden being elected each year at the Annual Vestry Meeting, usually in the month of February.

The office is managed by a competent Administrator/Secretary who works five mornings per week and who looks after all office matters, including keeping the Parish website up to date, bookings for rental rooms, producing leaflets for services, answering the telephone, welcoming visitors, etc. We employ a bookkeeper who works off site, responsible for monthly statements and balance sheets. A firm of chartered accountants conducts a 'read-only' audit of our accounts on an annual basis. The Rector has a large office with all necessary equipment including a desktop computer. We have a selection of vestments for all seasons.

We have a meeting room where committees may meet, a lounge where parishioners may gather to chat and for coffee as well as a large room which is used for talks and for instructional sessions.

Committees made up of devoted volunteers who serve the Church in various ways are extensive. At present we have 134 people as parishioners, many of whom are retired senior executives or professional people. We employ a Cleaning Service and Gardener on a part-time contractual basis. We have a very qualified Sunday School teacher but, regrettably, we do not have many children at our services.

The Parish is reflective of the diversity of the community of West Vancouver and we want our parish to become more attractive and relevant in the lives of others. We are relatively financially stable and our Church attendance remains constant but lower than we would wish and we are taking steps to increase that attendance by reaching out to those who have recently moved into our Parish.



We are looking for a Rector who, in addition to looking after the pastoral needs of our parishioners, will provide us with inspired leadership and assist us in growing our spirituality and number of parishioners.

A Brief History of St. Stephen's

In April 2013 St. Stephen's celebrated its 100th anniversary of ministry in West Vancouver. At its origin the Parish included the entire Municipality of West

Vancouver and, until 1921, students attending Anglican Theological College and clergy from Vancouver and North Vancouver presided at Sunday services. In 1920 St. Stephen's Rectory was constructed just to the South of the Church and the following year the Parish welcomed The Rev. J. P. Dingle as its first resident priest. Subsequently several additions were made to the premises in order to accommodate the increase in Church activities including a Sunday school for 220 children.

The idea of erecting a new Church building on the West side of 22nd street (its present location) was conceived in 1963. The first service was conducted in the new building on April 14, 1968. The Church proper is considered by many to be the premier Anglican facility on the North Shore and situated in a very central location. The Church seats 220 people with unobstructed visibility from the pews and the acoustics are unrivalled. In 1996 an adjoining facility, known as The Pavilion, was constructed and has been mainly used for Church meetings, parish meals and by outside user groups.

In 1977 The Rev. Edward. H. Wallace was appointed Rector and, following his retirement in 1988, The Rev. Keith Gilbert was inducted and was our Rector for 14 years. In the Fall of 2002 he was followed by The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Parker as Rector with The Rev. Ray Waller as Associate Priest. In 2006 when The Rev. Dr. Parker resigned The Rev. Dr. Ed. Schmitt accepted the appointment as Interim Priest for a two year term.

He in turn was followed by The Rev. Trevor Fisher L.th. who retired as at 31 August 2014 for health reasons.

The District of West Vancouver

West Vancouver is known for its parks such as Cypress Provincial Park, which offers scenic views of Howe Sound and the Metro Vancouver area. Whytecliffe Park and Lighthouse Park are located near the community of Horseshoe Bay, at the continental terminus of the Trans-Canada Highway. All of West Vancouver is situated on the side of the Coast Mountains. Because of this position, many homes in West Vancouver have views of Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, and/or Howe Sound.

As at July 2011 the population of West Vancouver was just over 44,000. The Municipality covers an area of 98.4 square kilometers but, due to its unique topography, has been able to keep much of its small town character. Downtown Vancouver may be reached by the Lions Gate Bridge which is just a short distance away.

West Vancouver has its own police force and fire department and offers a variety of services to residents including a great library, a busy community centre and a seniors centre, located a stone's throw from St. Stephen's. The Municipality has a Community Day and Parade in early June and a festival known as Harmony Arts each August. The Municipality is justifiably proud of its heritage buildings which include the Ferry Building on the waterfront which is now used for art exhibits as well as its museum and archives found in another historic residence.

The municipality has a public golf course as well a private course and easy access to a number of other courses. There are also a number of public tennis courts. As well, walking, cycling and hiking trails are plentiful and fishing is enjoyed by many people. West Vancouver is one of the few cities in the world that one can go sailing and skiing in the same day!

The Hospital serving the City and District of North Vancouver and West Vancouver is known as the Lions Gate Hospital and is located a short distance away in North Vancouver.

West Vancouver is culturally diverse with many immigrants as new residents. In 2006 the people born in Canada formed about 60% of the population with 40% being people not born in Canada. In 2006, of the residents not born in Canada about 67% were born in The United Kingdom and Europe, about 33% born elsewhere. Since that time there has been a large influx of people from the Middle East, particularly Iran. People of Persian ancestry form a majority of residents in West Vancouver who were not born in Canada. English is the mother tongue of about 75% of West Vancouverites with Farsi and Chinese dialects being the mother tongue of about 7% each almost evenly.



Rector's Residence



West Vancouver is considered to be one of the most desirable areas in which to live. We have a Rector's modern townhouse strata residence about a block from St. Stephen's which has three floors with two bedrooms upstairs and is approximately 2150 square feet in size.

There are no restrictions against children in residence, nor are pets prohibited.

The residence is within walking distance from a French Immersion Elementary school as well as Kindergarten, Elementary and a High school. The Community Centre and Seniors Centre are nearby with a fully equipped gym, swimming pool and an ice rink and the waterfront is accessible and about three blocks away.

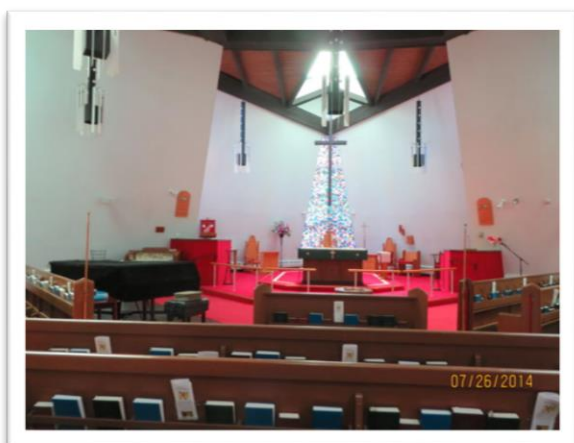
Parish Worship

The 8:00 A.M. Sunday Eucharist employs the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) in a spoken tradition. Attendance is typically 20 or more persons.

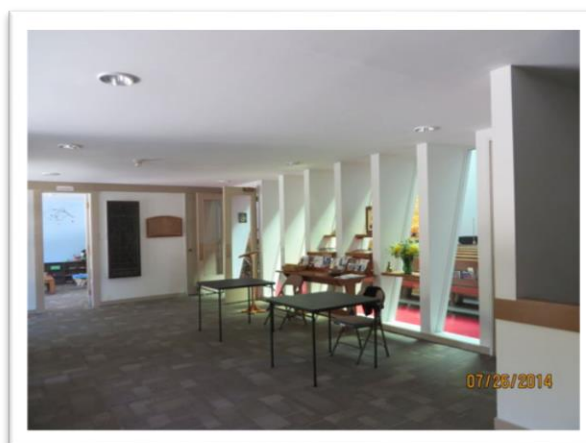
The 10:00 A.M. Sunday Eucharist primarily employs the Book of Alternative Services (BAS) and attendance is typically 40 or more persons.

Some of our parishioners are willing to experience a variety of alternative and possibly contemporary services with more music employing different instruments.

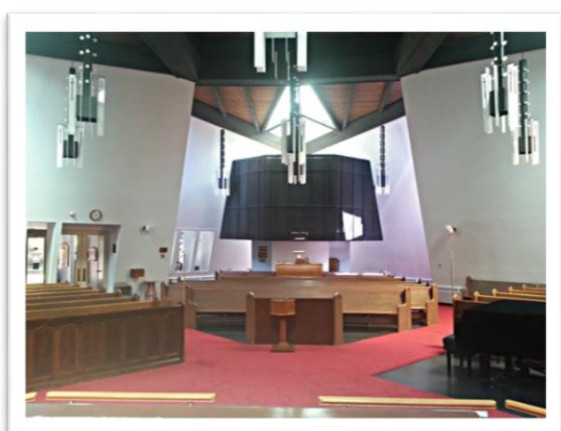
Our Narthex is large and welcoming and accommodates our parishioners who wish to talk before entering the Sanctuary. A table which holds notices, our Parish News, which is published periodically, and other items of interest is easily accommodated including a rack which holds name badges which parishioners may wish to wear for identification.



**Church interior – from entrance
looking forward**



Narthex



**Priest's view from the altar – front
to back**



Altar and chancel

During all services, assistance is provided to the Rector by the Lay Ministry team, who participate on a scheduled basis. Currently there are two licensed Lay Assistants within the Parish who are appointed by the Rector. A Server is also present at the 10:00 A.M. service on an 'as available' basis. There are also several Lay Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for both services. A weekly BAS service is also provided every Wednesday at 10.00 A.M. as it may be required, except during the month of August.

We have and use a projector to display the liturgy including all hymns and readings on two walls of the Sanctuary. The Rector creates the slides, thus must be proficient in Power Point and other computer programs.

Our last two Rectors have practised and preached a contemporary, liberal theology which was well received.

Church Committees

Parish Council

Currently, the Chairperson of the Council is the most senior Warden who presides at all monthly meetings. The Council consists of the Rector, the Wardens, the Treasurer, the Trustees, Delegates to Synod and Alternate Delegates to Synod, and Members at Large who are elected by the Parishioners of the Church at its Annual Vestry Meeting.

Duties of the Parish Council include ensuring that the Church is run effectively and all requisite steps are taken to ensure sound financial and administrative management. The Council has overall direction of the committees with the exception of the Liturgical Committee chaired by the Rector. The Council is responsible for reviewing the work of all committees and taking the appropriate steps to ensure overall effectiveness. All committees may have a Warden as an ex officio member.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild has been in existence since 1976, has 24 members and holds bi-monthly meetings. The Rector attends the meetings to advise of up-coming special services. The provision of flowers, clean linens and supplies for the Sanctuary are among the duties of the Guild.

Building and Grounds Committee

Has the responsibility to ensure the Church building and Parish Rectory are kept in a welcoming and safe manner. They are to report any defects which are found to the structure or its mechanical equipment and to ensure required maintenance be completed in a timely and cost efficient manner. This Committee has the responsibility of maintaining the grounds and garden area and the adjacent Memorial Garden.

Communications and Events Committee

The Committee is responsible for planning and holding such events as are approved by the Parish Council. Some events are directed at sustaining and increasing Church membership as well as providing fellowship. The Committee is also responsible for ensuring that notice of all events be made available to all parishioners and, if considered appropriate, for publishing notices of all events held by the Church as well as distributing them to the public when considered desirable.

Finance Committee

While the Treasurer is responsible for financial affairs of the Parish, the Wardens and the Finance Committee ensure that all Church money is allocated prudently. All cheques must be signed by two Wardens. The Wardens shall have custody and control of the finances of the Church and to ensure that all Church funds be wisely and properly deployed. This committee reports to the Parish Council and supervises the Church Bookkeeper.

Liturgical and Music Committee

The Rector is the Chairperson of this Committee and is assisted by three Church musicians in the selection of music appropriate to the services.

Outreach Committee

This Committee provides liaison between the Church and the community at large. It is a liaison with clubs, organizations and groups as well as with various ethnic segments of the community and, in conjunction with the Events Committee, may hold functions as may seem appropriate, i.e., Mission to Seafarers, Samaritan's Purse and Lions Gate Hospital. Our Outreach Committee would benefit by an increase in parishioner involvement.

Pastoral Care Committee

The Rector and members of the Committee meet regularly to determine which parishioners are ill, injured or absent from Church services and visit them and help in any way possible. Those who are ill, having birthdays or who have lost a loved one receive a card or flowers.

Stewards Committee

The Committee is responsible for arranging parishioners to act as 'Stewards' and 'Greeters' to welcome all people who arrive to attend Church services. This Committee ensures Stewards are available to assist at each service in the Church. They also outline the procedure in storing the collection. There is a 'Counters' sub-committee who meet every Monday morning to record parishioners donations and prepare bank deposit slips.

Stewardship and Fund Raising Committee

The Committee has the duty to seek or raise money required to enable the Church to accomplish such things as the Parish Council wishes done for the betterment of the Church. Funds raised in this manner would also be allocated toward starting or continuing with such programs which, but for the lack of funds, might not be started or continued. In addition, this Committee is responsible for seeking funds to allow the expansion of the services that the Church provides to its parishioners as well as the residents of West Vancouver as may be seen fit.

Vision or Long Range Committee

This Committee has been responsible for planning the necessary steps to ensure the Church has direction for the long term. They reported to the Parish Council the steps, in their view, necessary in the long run for the betterment of the Church.

Other Church Groups

Book Study

The Rector offers book study to groups of parishioners; sessions are attended faithfully by those wishing to increase their theological education and spiritual instruction.

Book Stall

A Book Stall is set up in the Narthex selling used books in good condition for a nominal fee. Funds raised from this venture go to outreach programs such as “Young Wolves Lodge”, a recovery house for young aboriginal women.

Brown Bag Lunch

The Brown Bag Lunch is a series of slide show presentations of interesting places our parishioners have travelled. It takes place at Noon, averaging once a month. Coffee and tea are offered to supplement the lunch parishioners bring to eat during the slide show and talk. We have had presentations about travel in the Northwest Passage, the Camino de Santiago, Scotland, The Thames, and Istanbul, among others.

Choir

St. Stephen's has a small volunteer Choir of very accomplished vocalists. They perform at the 10:00 A.M. service.

Deacon

We have a parishioner who is keen to embark on studies to become a Deacon.

Drop-in Bridge

The Pastoral Care Committee started the Bridge Group to provide social interaction among parishioners who would welcome an opportunity to be with others during the spring and summer months when their usual bridge group might be closed. They usually have 2-3 bridge tables and pay 50 cents for refreshments and a prize. The Pastoral Care committee makes a donation to the church operating fund with any extra funds.

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle has been meeting bi-monthly since March 2010. Members include women from Taiwan, Korea, Iran and China as well as from England and Canada. Our purpose is to offer fellowship and a social visit practicing English over a cup of tea.

Men of St. Stephen's (M.O.S.S.)

M.O.S.S. consists of all the men of St. Stephen's. M.O.S.S. meets periodically to serve as a social group in which church matters may be discussed. Our M.O.S.S group engenders good fellowship and its'

members voluntarily assist the Building and Grounds Committee as required in maintaining and repairing the Church building and its surrounds.

Music / Jazz Vespers / Music Bright

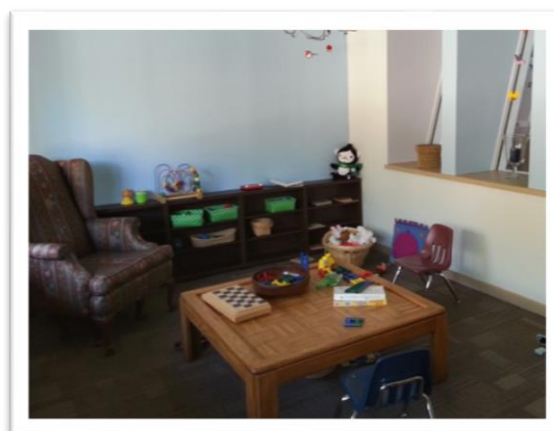
Music forms a very important part in our services and is much appreciated by our parishioners. The Parish has a good Casavant pipe organ that is in excellent condition. The Church also owns a Kohler and Campbell grand piano, a Yamaha upright piano and an electronic keyboard. The Church has a volunteer organist at 8:00 A.M. service and a concert pianist who plays the grand piano, the organ and also conducts the choir at 10:00 A.M.

During 2007, Parish Council introduced two new music initiatives to complement the Parish's traditional Sunday morning music. An accomplished musician and pianist presents guest jazz bands or vocalists to provide the music for hour-long worship on the last 10 o'clock Sunday service of each month called 'Music Bright' which is well liked by the congregation.

Jazz Vespers services consist of brief Scripture readings, prayers and reflections in which the Rector has participated, all woven together with jazz and/or world music, provided by a variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles.

Sunday School

We have a Sunday School for children under the age of 11 and we have engaged a qualified Sunday School teacher. The attendance is irregular but has been as high as 12 children. Sunday School is offered at the 10:00 A.M. Sunday service.



Use of Church Facilities

Our Church seats 220 people. Entrance ways and washrooms are wheelchair accessible and a pew has been made available to parishioners who may need access in their wheelchairs.

The Church has a fully equipped kitchen which allows us to prepare meals and snacks as well as tea and coffee for all events and we have a board/conference room as well as a well appointed lounge and our 'Pavilion' in which instructional and other meetings are held.

We maintain a tranquil Memorial Garden in which the ashes of deceased parishioners are interred.

Cedardale Child Learning Centre Ltd. rents the lower part of the Church premises as a licensed child care facility for infants, toddlers and children aged 1 – 6 years of age. It is an educational facility with teachers trained in Montessori and Early Childhood Education operating on a year round basis.

Many other organizations use the Church facilities for meetings and their functions. These organizations include: North Shore Stroke and Recovery; Alcoholics Anonymous; Canadian Federation of University Women; Yoga classes; Music Together [childrens' music]; North Shore Mindfulness [meditation group]; Community singalong; North Shore Stream Keepers [people who keep streams clear for fish]; Beavers; Boy Scouts; Venturers; Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir; and, occasional functions put on by the Parish and outside organizations.

Co-operation with Anglican Parishes in West Vancouver

We have recently started to hold cooperative events with the other two Anglican Parishes in West Vancouver. Some of these events include meetings of the Wardens from the three parishes and of the three Altar Guilds. These efforts are in their infancy but we hope will grow to our mutual advantage.

We are sharing invitations to our upcoming activities to the other two West Vancouver Anglican Parishes and look forward to inviting each other to join with us in our various activities.

We propose to invite the men of each of the other West Vancouver Parishes to joint M.O.S.S. breakfasts starting this Fall. We have a joint Confirmation Class with our other two Parishes and we are starting to know ourselves as the Anglican Community of West Vancouver.

ATTRIBUTES WE SEEK IN A RECTOR

The attributes that we seek in our new Rector are:

A person with charisma and vision who is a ‘Team Player’ and will be a presence in our community; a leader both spiritually and in achieving growth in the number of our parishioners; speaks well especially on current topics from a Christian viewpoint; who is congenial and can communicate well with people; is musically inclined; who is computer literate; is able to foster congeniality; and act with tactful diplomacy. We need someone to provide ongoing pastoral care to our parishioners.

The following questions are the ones we would like to discuss:

1. Would you be described as a “people person” who easily engages with people both young and old?
2. Leadership is key to the success of St. Stephen’s. How do you anticipate managing this challenge and are you a person who is prepared to share decision making with your wardens and Church council?
3. Are you a person who enjoys singing at Church services? The parishioners enjoy a variety of music at the services. Have you the musical ability to lead singing in worship?
4. Visiting parishioners is a priority for St. Stephen’s. Do you regularly visit parishioners in their homes, hospitals and care facilities?
5. Would you actively continue the cooperation with other West Vancouver Anglican Parishes and with the clergy of other denominations in West Vancouver?

Summary

In preparing this Parish Profile the Canonical Committee, having given notice to all our Parishioners, on three separate occasions and at different times of day met with about 20 persons on each occasion and asked them to tell us, in their opinions, what to each of them are the attributes and possible improvement of St. Stephen’s and where they want the Church to be in the next years to come. We got substantial positive feedback which assisted us greatly in preparing this profile.

St. Stephen’s is one of three Anglican parishes in West Vancouver, the others being St. Francis in the Wood and St. Christopher’s, both of which were derived from the original St. Stephen’s. A fourth parish, St. Monica’s was recently closed.

We participated in and were supportive in electing our new Bishop, The Right Reverend Melissa Skelton, to lead the Diocese.

Financially in the last two years we have risen from the lowest quartile of Anglican parishes and we are now in the top quartile in the Diocese. The Rector and the Chair of our Stewardship and Fund Raising Committee have been largely responsible for this improvement. We must continue our fund raising

activities to ensure that our financial position is sound and we would expect our new Rector to assist in Stewardship and Fund Raising.

We are a caring parish with friendly people who like fellowship, music, prayer and using their talents in a meaningful way for the common good. We want our Church to have a mission to promote God's work in the neighbourhood and to become the principal multicultural Church of the North Shore. Our parishioners do want to make a beneficial difference in the lives all people and build bridges to the community. We are a Church which is open to change.

We eagerly look forward to having a Rector who is passionate about his or her calling, who will engage our congregation, provide inspired leadership and spiritual instruction, who fosters congeniality with tactful diplomacy, and who values our diverse group of parishioners for years to come.

APPENDIX

The Parish of St. Stephen's Anglican Church (West Vancouver) Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances For the year ended 31 December 2013

	Total	
	2013	2012
Revenue		
Envelopes	171,016	179,980
Rental Income	66,498	68,000
Donations - Individual & organizations	59,914	24,240
- Church and hall	20,660	22,290
DocuSystems donations	10,573	-
Special fundraising	5,238	31,238
Spirit of Christmas		14,275
Open offerings	4,237	4,626
Sunday School offerings	-	4,050
Bequests		5,000
Designated outreach	6,841	4,459
Interest income	63	63
	<u>341,040</u>	<u>358,221</u>
Expenses		
Operating Fund expenses	236,731	262,566
Diocese apportionment	41,264	37,152
Mortgage interest	16,668	18,579
Property taxes and strata fees	8,512	8,313
Centennial Fund Expenses	8,162	-
Repairs and Maintenance		570
Designated outreach	6,841	4,459
Bank charges	242	84
	<u>318,420</u>	<u>331,723</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	22,620	26,498