



St.
Stephen's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Wimberley
Parish Profile 2019

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Mission Statement

To know God in Christ and make God known through love, witness and service to all.

Jubilee

As a Jubilee Parish, St. Stephen's is grounded in outreach as we work to lift the brokenhearted, restore the dignity of all people, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.



St. Stephen's Chapel

History *of* St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church began in 1973 as an outreach effort of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Marcos, 18 miles away. The tiny band of Episcopalians met initially in the Lion's Club field office, then in a ranch bunkhouse across the highway from the present campus.

St. Stephen's moved onto the current property in Wimberley in the early 1970s. In 1977, the first chapel, St. Stephen's Chapel, was modeled as a replica of Mission San Francisco de la Espada in San Antonio. The church then created a four-acre cemetery, constructed in the tradition of early church missions. At the time, it was the only non-profit cemetery in Texas. As the church continued to grow in membership, a parish hall and log cabin were added to the 51-acre property to support ministries and fellowship gatherings.

In late 1980, members of the congregation formed a provisional vestry and petitioned for separation from St. Mark's. Until that time, the two churches had been served by the same rector, the Rev. James Folts, who went on to serve as bishop of the diocese. Separate parish status was granted by Diocesan Council in February 1981. The first rector, the Rev. Earl McArthur, served until 1987 when he was elected bishop suffragan of the diocese.

During a study of parish goals, a high interest in developing an Episcopal school emerged. With funding and support, the doors of St. Stephen's Episcopal School opened in September of 1989. Classes are offered for pre-k3 through fifth grade.

The current church building, which seats over 300, was built in 2002 and reflects Texas' early Spanish missions style. The church campus also includes a one-mile nature trail, outdoor chapel, labyrinth, and Stations of the Cross. The beauty of the grounds and buildings exemplify the life of the church. St. Stephen's is a vibrant, growing community that supports parishioners at all stages of their life and faith journey.



Main church building

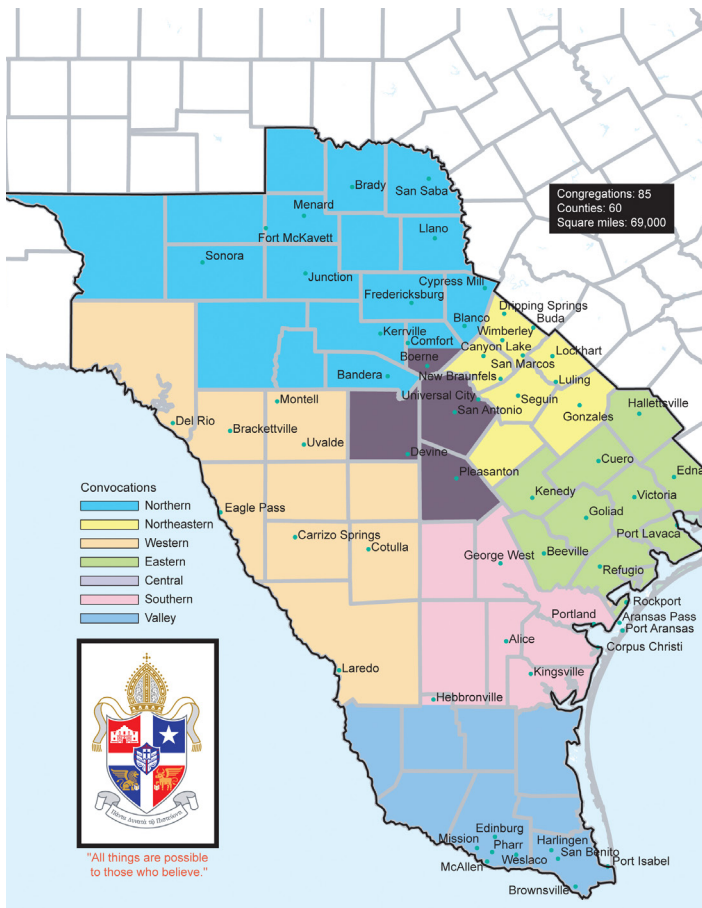
Diocese of West Texas

Be Jesus' Witness

St. Stephen's, Wimberley, is part of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, led by the Rt. Reverend David Reed, 10th Diocesan Bishop of West Texas. The diocese comprises 85 parishes and missions, extending from the Texas-Mexico border to Brady in the north, Port Lavaca on the coast, and Del Rio in the west. The diocesan offices are located in San Antonio at the Bishop Jones Center.



DAVID REED
Diocesan Bishop



Diocesan Core Values

Faith

**Scripture, Prayer, and
Sacramental Worship**

Evangelism

Mission

Reconciliation



The
Episcopal Diocese
of West Texas

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Wimberley, Texas



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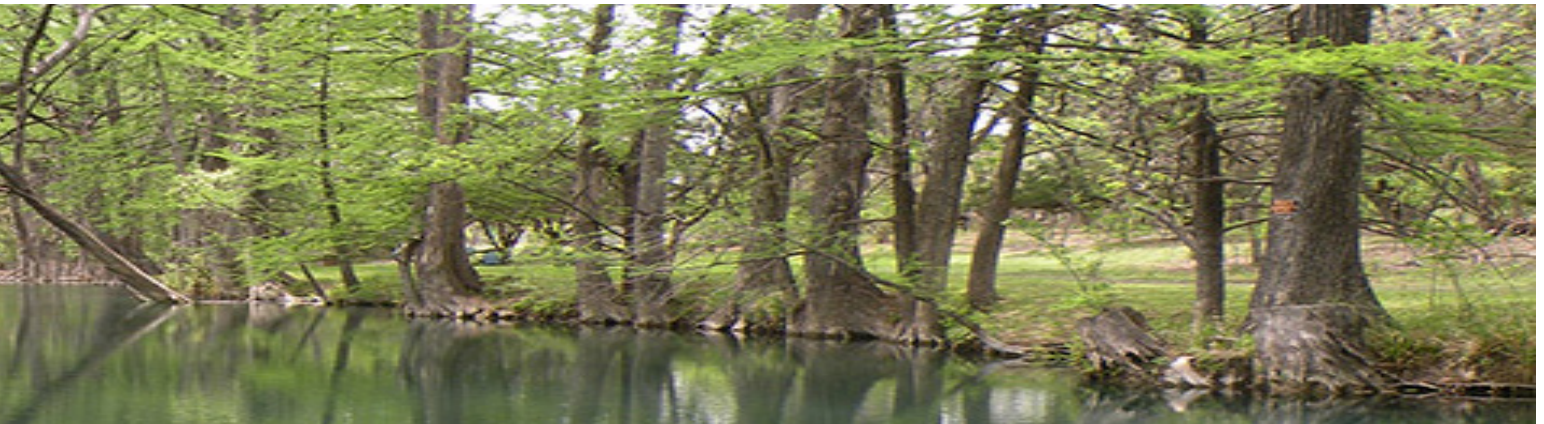
A nice place to visit, a great place to live

Nestled in the verdant Wimberley Valley, the Village of Wimberley is an oasis in the rocky Hill Country. A comfortable commuting distance from Austin and San Antonio, Wimberley has long been a retreat for artists, musicians and writers, inspired by its natural beauty and water features, such as Blue Hole.

Wimberley's exemplary public school district and a high school that *Newsweek Magazine* ranked in 2012 as one of the top 1,000 high schools in the country, a State Football Champion in 2012 Class 3-A, and the beautiful St. Stephen's Episcopal private preschool and elementary schools continue to attract young families to our area.

The official population of the Village of Wimberley is approximately 3,000, but the Postal Service delivers to more than 14,000 homes in the immediate vicinity. Wimberley Independent School District is made up of 150 teachers, with 2,500 students enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year.

A vibrant arts community, excellent schools both public and private, mild climate and beautiful scenery make Wimberley a unique spot in the Hill Country of Texas.

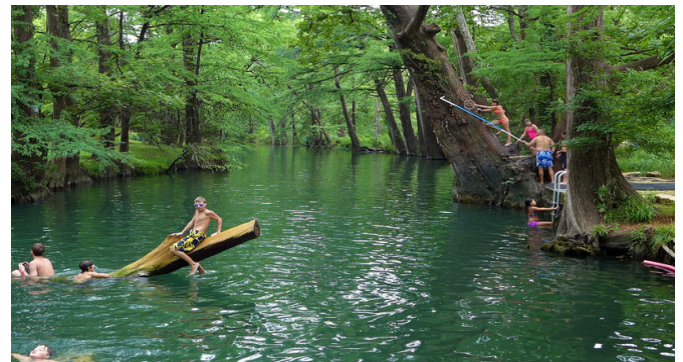


Parks and Recreation

Wimberley's trails, parks, swimming holes, and hiking paths provide an abundance of opportunities to enjoy the scenic hill country views.

Blue Hole Regional Park

One of Wimberley's biggest attractions is the Blue Hole Regional Park, a natural swimming hole, which was purchased by the city in 2005 with a mission of protecting the land from development. The Blue Hole has been named one of the top natural swimming holes in Texas and in the nation.



trip101.com

Mount Baldy

Located just outside of Wimberley, Old Baldy Mountain, which has steps along the edge, provides a full aerial view of the city at the top.

School District

Wimberley Independent School District is made up of four public schools, providing this small town a personal relationship with the district, while remaining committed to innovation and excellence.

Market Days

The first Saturday of each month, Wimberley gathers for an outdoor Market Day at Lions Field Park. The food, craft vendors, and live music draws in the local community as well as visitors. Wimberley Market Days began in 1964 and today host nearly 500 vendors, making it one of the largest in the state.



Church Leadership

Vestry

Nancy Jenkins
Senior Warden

David Reynolds
Junior Warden & Facilities Chair

Ken Ellis
Admin. Finance Chair

Veronica Erwin
Clerk Ministry

Joe Blanford
Treasurer

Ann Robertson
Property Facilities

Mary McIntosh
Property Facilities

Carla Daws
Admin. Finance

Dr. James May
Ministry Comm.

David Boles
Ministry Comm.

Newcomer Committee

Carla Daws

Cindy Dawson

Veronica Erwin

Sue Wright

Dorothy Harris



Outdoor Sanctuary

Church Staff



Jeannetta Watson
Parish Administrator



Caroll Wilson
A/V Tech



Jackie McFadden
Communications Manager



Hunt Sparra
Webmaster



Anne Jones
Director of Music



Rachel Krotzer
Housekeeping Sexton



Chu Robertson
Nursery Coordinator



Lonnie Brown
Water Tech, Sexton

Worship

Whoever you are and wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here.

St. Stephen's is a community that is focused on welcoming all to worship. We make sure that every guest who enters our church feels welcome, no matter where they are from or where they are on their faith journey.

Our Sunday and weekday services provide a variety of music and worship styles. All services follow the traditional Episcopal Eucharist. Each week, we hold four services, including healing prayer services. Occasionally, the Daughters of the King host a special Taize Prayer service on Wednesday nights, combining song, silence, and contemplation.

Worship and Christian Formation on Sundays provide our parishioners with opportunities to be a part of a community of faith, finding solace with their neighbors.

Choir

The Music Ministry of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is open to all ages. Every voice can sing. The adult choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the choir room and on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to prepare for the worship service.

Children in first through sixth grade, including home schoolers, are the Melody Makers. All experience levels and talents are welcome. We meet once a week during the regular school year on Wednesday afternoons in the St. Stephen's Church Choir Room. During the school year, we take what we've created together musically and share it with everyone on Family Sundays as we lead the worship music.





Sunday

8:00 A.M.

Traditional Holy Eucharist
in the Chapel

9:15 A.M.

Adult Sunday School

10:15 A.M.

Children's Sunday School

10:30 A.M.

Traditional Holy Eucharist
in the Church

Wednesday

10:00 A.M.

Holy Eucharist Worship *and*
Healing Service *in the Chapel*

6:00 P.M.

Holy Eucharist Worship *with*
Praise Band *in the Chapel*



Fellowship

Co-Ed Bible Study

Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m.

For anyone who would like to deepen his or her faith through studying Bible stories and sharing perspectives.

Story Writers

Second Tuesdays

Story Writers gives members an opportunity to share their writings with each other, without offering critiques or judgment. This ministry encourages and supports creativity.

Bible Babes

Mondays and Thursdays at noon

Bible Babes meets weekly to engage in thought-provoking Bible study. Meetings rotate among Bible Babe's houses, with bring-your-own-lunch and discussion.

Dinner Buddies

October-April

St. Stephen's hosts the kick-off potluck dinner in September. Members are then arranged into small groups to meet monthly at each other's homes or local restaurants.

Coffee & Friends

First and third Fridays

The women of St. Stephen's visit twice a month at our local coffee shop, Blanco Brew Coffee.

Great Generations

Third Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Great Generations provides a space where retired (or not-retired people) can come together to exchange the richness of their lives and to express thanks to God for their blessings in a variety of informative and entertaining ways.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Prayer, study, and service. The St. Stephen's chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is dedicated to serving young men within and outside of the church walls. This group of men is committed to making a difference. Each month the group meets to plan and schedule activities.

TED Talkers

Second and fourth Wednesdays at noon

TED Talkers is an opportunity for members to gather for a brown-bag lunch in McArthur Hall and watch a *TED Talk* video followed by discussion. TED Talks cover topics of culture, science, faith, and more.

Yoga

Tuesdays at 4 p.m.

Enjoy donation-based gentle yoga for all ages and abilities. The yoga helps sharpen focus, improve posture, heal aches and pains of body and heart. Part of donated funds go towards St. Stephen's Church.

Children's Formation



Orange

1st-5th Grade

Orange children's program is for first through fifth grade students with the goal of teaching every child three basic, but powerful truths, modeled by Jesus in Luke 2:52: ***I need to make the wise choice, I can trust God no matter what, and I should treat others the way I want to be treated.***



Orange comes from the two individual influences in a child's life: home and church. Alone, these two influences work hard to ensure that every child has a better future. When combined, home and church have a greater impact.

Godly Play

Pre-K4-Kinder

The Godly Play group meets each Sunday to explore Bible stories through a child's viewpoint, opening to the wonder and deep truth they bring.

Waumba Land

Infant-4 Years

Waumba Land is the St. Stephen's nursery, located in the Children's Center. Waumba is the Swahili word for Creator. The goal in Waumba Land is that every child is assured of three life principles: ***I am made of God, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever.***

Faithful Families

Kindergarten-5th Grade & Parents

Faithful Families is the place where kids and parents learn together about God's Big Ideas! It's a fun, interactive experience that happens once a month.

Youth Group



Junior High

6th-8th Grade

The middle school years are a critical window when pre-teens begin to personalize and own their faith. The middle school youth at St. Stephen's are supported by youth leaders and parents to affirm their faith. The Junior High Youth Group curriculum provides resources to help teach the following messages: ***I will love God because he will never stop loving me, I will follow Jesus because he knows me better than I know myself, and I will live out God's story so others can know who Jesus is.***

Senior High

9th-12th Grade

The high school years are a time of testing beliefs in light of growing life experience and personal awakening. When leaders and parents mobilize their potential, high school students will keep pursuing authentic faith and discover a personal mission. Our high school curriculum creates weekly resources to help teenagers graduate believing:

I am created to pursue a relationship with my creator, I trust what Jesus did to transform who I need to become, and I exist to demonstrate God's love to those around me.

What the Children & Youth Love Most About St. Stephen's

There are kind people who love us; we feel like a big family.

We really love food after church. People always stand in front of church with snacks and activity bags.

We like fun activities, like helping in the community.

Outreach



Community of Hope

The mission of Community of Hope is to create Christian communities of lay chaplains united in prayer, shaped by Benedictine spirituality, and trained to serve pastoral needs within and beyond the parish.

Ministries include outreach in hospitals, retirement centers, prisons, nursing homes, and to the homeless and underserved.

Amigos de Jesus

"Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

Amigos de Jesus is an ecumenical program that reaches out to the Hispanic community in Wimberley. The group provides food, daily essentials, bikes, and clothing. It also helps with emergency medical issues and provides educational enrichment opportunities.

Cancer Support

Second Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m.

The Wimberley Area Cancer Support Group is sponsored by St. Stephen's. Each month, participants who have been diagnosed with cancer, now or in the past, are invited to bring lunch and share time, conversation, and relaxation with those who are going through the same experience.

Adopt-a-Highway

St. Stephen's cleans two sections of highway (about five miles total). This outreach ministry provides a chance to get fresh air, spend time with friends and family, and transform the roadside within a couple hours!

Deer Creek

Second and fourth Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

This outreach ministry gathers at Deer Creek Senior Care Facility twice a month to share in a Holy Eucharist service with the residents.

St. Stephen's Santas

Santa Sunday at St. Stephen's is a day of gathering food, wrapping gifts, and making special deliveries. This eventful day draws in the whole congregation, from youngest to oldest. An average of 600 gifts are wrapped and delivered with food to about 35 Wimberley Valley families, including 100-120 kids.



Big Scoop

Big Scoop is an annual Ice Cream Festival fundraiser and community event that St. Stephen's plans, organizes, staffs with volunteers, lines up entertainment for, and secures donors. St. Stephen's actively partners with other churches and many community members to put on the festival.

This half-day event includes performances, contests, games, art exhibits, hair tinseling, balloon animals, face painting, and more. Proceeds from ticket sales go towards Camp Good Sam. Camp Good Sam is a six-week summer program that combats summer learning loss in at-risk area youth. Each year Big Scoop has grown in popularity and money raised. The event also focuses on awareness of the needs of our local at-risk students and provides the Wimberley Valley with an opportunity to eat ice cream while supporting Camp Good Sam. The Big Scoop Ice Cream Festival Committee meets most months out of the year to plan this one-day event open to the public. In 2019 the Big Scoop Festival raised more than \$21K.



Campus Grounds

Trailblazers

The Trailblazers, a ministry group, helped build and continues to maintain the unique features of St. Stephen's campus, including the nature trail, labyrinth, and Stations of the Cross. Along with the Gardening Angels, this group is dedicated to caring for our church grounds.

Nature Trail

The Nature Trail, built in 2002 by the Trailblazers, is a two-mile trail that provides opportunities for rest and reflection.

Along the trail there is an outdoor chapel, fountain, labyrinth, space dedicated to all clergy who have served at St. Stephen's, and a Stations of the Cross. There are ceramic icons, created by St. Stephen's artists, to represent the 14 Stations of the Cross on the trail. The icons are protected by handmade niches, constructed by the Trailblazers.

Bird Feeders

The Wimberley area has many birds that migrate through. The church grounds provide a welcoming place for them to find rest and refreshment. There are seven bird feeders throughout the courtyard and nature trail. Volunteers help fill the feeders three times each week.



Gardening Angels

The Gardening Angels work to beautify the church grounds and honor the Hill Country environment with native planting. The ministry has created a long-term landscaping plan to ensure the sanctity of the grounds.

Labyrinth

The labyrinth at St. Stephen's is a replica of the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth in France, which was created in 1220. As visitors walk the path to the center it begins to mirror each life journey - winding through sorrow, joy, obstacles, and peace.





Parochial Report

Stewardship & Financial

	2018	2017	2016
Number of signed pledge cards	124	135	165
Total dollar amount pledged	\$545,667	\$553,506	\$614,718
Plate offerings & gifts	\$10,104	\$51,862	\$
Total operating revenue	\$555,771	\$605,368	\$604,997
Funds received for capital projects	\$23,986	\$39,985	\$85,868
Contributions, grants, endowment	\$102,383	\$56,358	\$40,921
Total operating and non-operating revenue	\$682,140	\$701,711	\$731,786
Total operating and non-operating expenses	\$394,509	\$269,297	\$698,566
Total net revenue	\$287,631	\$432,414	\$33,220

Membership & Attendance

	2018	2017	2016
Members reported	761	763	749
Total active baptized members	770	761	763
Communicants in good standing	304	295	320
Average Sunday attendance	141	167	180
Easter Sunday attendance	312	342	359
Baptisms	1	3	3
Confirmations	6	0	6
Received	77	0	1



St. Stephen's Episcopal School

Empowering each student to live authentically, think expansively, and serve selflessly

St. Stephen's is the largest and most diverse ministry of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. The school holds three chapel services each week as a way to honor its Episcopal identity and school founders. The school sees chapel as a teaching and learning opportunity in which students are at the center of the experience and are guided by our Chapel Coordinator, Music Teacher and our Rector. Students in kindergarten through 6th grade also attend a weekly Spiritual Formation class. St. Stephen's Episcopal School is unapologetically Episcopal through teaching and modeling Anglican rituals, open-mindedness, tolerance, peaceful resolution, appreciation of spiritual difference, and understanding of the world community.

In the tradition of Episcopal school education, St. Stephen's is a community rooted in faith and committed to providing a challenging academic curriculum while remaining sensitive to the development of the whole child. The school places great emphasis on the creation of a safe, family environment where the unique worth and beauty of all human beings can be proclaimed as creations of a loving, empowering God.

School Creed

I believe in God above, I believe in Jesus' love. I believe His Spirit too, comes to teach me what to do. I believe that I should be kind and loving, Lord, like thee.



Core Values

Spiritual Formation

We are an Episcopal school that worships together, develops Christian values, and respects all faiths.

Educational Balance

We provide a setting that promotes challenging academics, arts, athletics, and extracurricular programs.

Character

We model the moral values of respect for self and others, responsibility, integrity, tolerance, and compassion.

Community

We are a dedicated community that provides a nurturing, safe, inclusive, and joyful environment.

Stewardship

We encourage students to utilize their gifts and talents for the greater good of the school, the broader community, and the natural world.



Accreditation

St. Stephen's Episcopal School, from its pre-k3 program through fifth grade, is accredited by the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). This accreditation is fully recognized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) through the membership of SAES in the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission. SAES is a regional organization of Episcopal schools in Texas, Arkansas, Arizona, Louisiana and Oklahoma. The SAES accreditation process is comprehensive and rigorous, including on-site visiting teams of fellow educators, and required interim written reports over a ten-year period to create a continuous accreditation process.

St. Stephen's is strengthened by accreditation process' emphasis on best practices and effective school governance. SAES is the only faith-based accreditation organization in the United States recognized by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).

The Search *for* Our Next Rector

Priorities for Leadership

From a list of pastoral and ministerial skills, our congregation prioritized what we would like to see in our next rector. The results follow, beginning with the highest priority.

1. **Actively support outreach programs in the Wimberley community.**
2. **Provide administrative leadership for the congregation's ministries.**
3. **Directly involve laity in the planning and leadership of church programs.**
4. **Develop and support religious education programs for children and youth.**
5. **Plan and lead worship sensitive to the needs of the congregation.**



What Any Rector Candidate Should Know

When you walk through the doors of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, you immediately feel the love and care we have for each other. Our members are multi-generational, dynamic, fun, and energetic.

Ministries

Our church has strong ministry programs. We offer opportunities for all ages to participate and be involved with the St. Stephen's community. Members of St. Stephen's work together and support each other in order to ensure the success of our programs. We seek a rector who will work with us to grow and develop our ministries.

Outreach

We are passionate about outreach! As a Jubilee parish, we are dedicated to serving those in our local, diocesan, and the wider community. It is important that our new rector supports and builds on our outreach efforts. In the future, we hope to create opportunities for the St. Stephen's Nature Trail to be utilized in outreach programs.

School

We are proud of our Episcopal school and hope to strengthen the relationship between church and school, so that members of St. Stephen's can better support the needs of the school.

Music

The music program is a valuable part of our Sunday and weekday worship at St. Stephen's. We are open to the expansion of our music styles, including adding contemporary.

Youth

We love our children and youth programs at St. Stephen's. We are currently searching to hire a Youth Minister to help enliven the tradition of great Christian Formation. We want the children and youth to feel involved and welcome in all aspects of the life of St. Stephen's, and we hope our new rector will work to ensure that their voices are heard.

What the Children Seek in a New Rector

**We want a priest
who includes
everyone and lets
the kids be helpers.**

**The new priest
should come to the
school and make
new friends.**

**We hope the priest
likes to dance
and will have
dance parties. Be
enthusiastic, but
not wild and scary.**



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