



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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www.saintstephenswhiting.org

A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Rt. Reverend Dr. Sally J. French, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, (Retired Bishop)

The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector

Gerrie Vergona, Treasurer

Esther Graham, Music Director

Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Wardens and Vestry 2023

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden

Peter Quigley, Property Warden

Shelagh Bluni, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano

Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue

Bill Bodine, Kay Karlick, Richard Smithson

Joanne Smithson, Clerk

Mission Statement

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered: to use the diversity of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly with the Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector.

To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.

Please notify the church office 732-350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations.

If it is an emergency you may also reach Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or

Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost *(Proper 21)*



SHOW ME
Your ways
O LORD;

TEACH ME *YOUR PATHS.*
PSALM 25:4 NKJV

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 21
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**OCT 1, 2023
10 am**

Hymnal

The Word of God

BCP

451 Processional Hymn: *“All Hail The Power Of Jesus”*
Patriotic Hymn: 717, V4
Opening Acclamation
Collect of the Day
First Lesson: **Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32**
Psalm 25: 1-8
Second Lesson: **Philippians 2:1-13**
Gradual: *“Word of God Speak” (lyrics below)*
Gospel: **Matthew 21:23-32**
Sermon — *The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.*

299
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PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

Examination of Candidate
The Baptismal Covenant
Prayers for the Candidate
Thanksgiving over the Water

301
302
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305
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THE BAPTISM

Welcoming the newly Baptized
The Peace
Offertory Anthem
Doxology: *“All things come of thee O Lord”*

HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer A 361
S120 Sursum Corda
S125 Sanctus
S136 Memorial Acclamation 363
The Lord’s Prayer 364
Breaking of the Bread
S152 Fraction Anthem
Communion Hymns
325 *“Let us break bread together”*
“Baptized In Water”
“Shall We Gather At The River”
Post Communion Prayer 366
Blessing
686 Recessional: *Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing*
Dismissal

Word of God speak
*Won’t you pour down like
rain
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty
To be still and know
That You’re in this place
Please let me stay and rest
In Your holiness
word of God speak*

CHOIR PRACTICE

Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs.

HEALING SERVICES

Join us every Thursday at 10 am for an experience that will help you find comfort, support, and spiritual healing. We welcome everyone with open hearts and look forward to sharing an enriching time with you.

WHITING GARDEN CLUB

Wednesday October 4th at 10AM

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, October 9th @10 AM

OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday October 12th after the Healing Service

Crop Walk

Sunday is October 15th at 2pm at the Community Reformed Church.
Noisy Sunday collection at both services.

Boscov's Friends helping Friends

tickets are being sold for the **October 18** event at the store from 8am to 11pm. The \$5 donation benefits the church and you benefit from shopping with great discounts all day.

UTO INGATHERING AND ANNUAL MEETING

The UTO for United Thank Offering will be collected by October 21. The Diocesan ECW Annual meeting will be held on Saturday, October 21 from 10am at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Beach Haven, NJ. It will also be on zoom. The Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson, the UTO Co-Chair will be our host. Bishop Sally will be attending this event in person. This is where the \$ from the Blue Boxes is collected. The UTO (Blue Boxes) will be in the Narthex after the Fair. More details will follow.

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, October 23rd @ 10am.

TECH THURSDAY

Tech Thursday meets monthly. Our next meeting will be on October 26th at 12:30pm

Forward Day by Day

has arrived for November, December, 2023, and January 2024. Donations May be placed in the lockbox on the tract rack, or in an envelope earmarked for Forward Day by Day. The large print edition will be available soon.



ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. See our schedule of services located online at www.ststephenswhitingnj.org

SAVE THE DATE For Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are available in the coffee room. Firms, and information tell you how to fill your shoebox and what to do with them. Return them filled to church with your checks and they will be sent on to the next location to be shipped where they are needed. Barbara Marshall is the chair. Ask her your questions.

School supplies are out and needed for all children. The items like notebooks, markers, pencils, sharpeners are all on sale for back to school so this is a good time to collect items.

A complete list of items needed will be available soon.

English Tea

Thank you to all the wonderful helpers that set tables, made delicious sandwiches and desserts, help sell tickets, runners, cleaned up, washed tablecloths and napkins, and more to make the English Tea a success. After giving away \$25 for the money hat, and the half of the 50/50 at \$201, our profit was \$2643. I could not do it this time without everyone's help.

Thank you! Stefanie Bodine, Chair

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

Bowling Committee meeting

on **OCTOBER 1** after 10am coffee hour

Have you bought your tickets for the Christmas Bowl-a-thon on Sunday, December 3 at **Thunderbird Lanes in Manahawkin?**

STEWARDSHIP MEETING

Stewardship Sunday begins on October 1. See the list for each week's speakers. Thanks to each one that participates. Be inspired with what each person feels about God and our church. we have a dynamic slate of talented speakers this year with our Consecration Sunday speaker as Canon Phyllis Jones from the Diocese on Sunday, November 12th.

WOMANS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, 1ST & 3RD Mondays at 11am for info contact: *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863*

Today we welcome

Ryan Mark Lanning

*Into the body of Christ's Holy Catholic Church
through the sacrament of Baptism.*

Let us all pray,

*that our Heavenly Father continues to strengthen his life
with the grace and power of the Holy Spirit
as he grows in the midst of this Christian Community.*

Collect of the Day

☪ God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

The word of the Lord came to me again: “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge’? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins shall die.

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die for it; for the iniquity which he has committed he shall die. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is lawful and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?”

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of any one, says the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Psalm 25:1-8

Ad te, Domine, levavi

- 1 **T**o you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.



A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians 2:1-13

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves.



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **Fall and Winter clothes ONLY** in **TOP** condition, (clean, with no missing buttons, tears or stains). Also, continue to use the **FOUR BINS** in our parking lot for *out of season clothing, all men's wear*, and other items. Our winter clothes are now on clearance sale. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN ~ is in need of additional members. The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of parishioners who will pray for any who are in need. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Greta Pearl at 732-350-7584 for details. Greta is the contact when placing, on the Prayer Chain, your name or the names of family, neighbors, or friends who would like prayers for healing, comfort, or any other purpose.

COFFEE HOUR



A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2023 - sign up! Everyone is so grateful for the delicious food that you share, your help, and they love chatting after the services. Any questions, contact *Stefanie* at (732) 350-2904



St. Stephen's Men's Club and ECW are happy, once again, to present
PASTA AND MORE!



But your tickets as soon as possible for Pasta and More on Saturday, October 7 from 3-5pm. Tickets are going fast and none will be sold at the door.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023, from 3 – 5 PM. And please feel free to bring along your favorite wine or beer to enjoy with dinner.

If you would be interested in serving on this committee in any capacity (cooking, serving, setting/cleaning up, etc.), please call Valerie Thompson at 732-657-4510.
Your help is definitely needed and is much appreciated.



The E.C.W. is hosting the annual
Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair on
Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 9:00 AM until 1:00PM.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
180Rt 539 Whiting NJ 08759

In addition to the crafters and vendors, the Kitchen Café will be open with food and snacks available for purchase. There will be a 50/50, a basket auction, door prizes and the popular bake sale table. Tables are available for a donation of \$10.00 plus the donation of a small door prize.

For information or to reserve a table,
please call **JoAnn Smithson 609-575-1879.**



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month— October 14th, after the Healing Service.

Prayer to send out LEMs with the Sacrament:

Celebrant: N. we send you out to share Communion this week with those who have been entrusted to your care.

People: May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ's presence.

Celebrant: Continues with a closing prayer.

ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month	at 9:30 am
Aristicare	1st Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Arbors	2nd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Pines	3rd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm



Bring your furry, feathered or scaly loved ones for a day of blessings on

Wednesday, October 4th, 11-1pm

St. Stephens Episcopal Church

180 rt 539 whiting NJ 08759

732-350-2121



Blessing of the Animals

Sign up to join us again on
Tuesday, October 10, from 10am to Noon
Here at St Stephen's Church



Senior Moments will be sharing information on Medicare, Disability, and Social Security on Tuesday, October 10 at 10am. Call the church Office to sign up for this free event.

Get your questions answered.

Free to the public!

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 21:23-32

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you a question; and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? From heaven or from men?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we are afraid of the multitude; for all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he repented and went. And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.

TEAM HOSPITALITY

On Tuesday, St Stephen's Episcopal Church hosted the Convocation Healing Service, attended by approximately 50 people. Linda Chiappetta, Kay Karlick, Beverly Larson, Maryann Payne, JoAnn Smithson, Charlene Tilton, and Valerie Thompson, prepared and served delicious sandwiches, veggies and fruit, and cookies. Rich Smithson (walking on an injured leg) came over and made coffee for us. These volunteers work tirelessly for our church and we acknowledge them and thank them for their service.

thank

you

Baptized In Water

Verse 1

Baptized in water
Sealed by the Spirit
Cleansed by the blood
Of Christ our King
Heirs of salvation
Trusting His promise
Faithfully now
God's praise we sing

Verse 2

Baptized in water
Sealed by the Spirit
Dead in the tomb
With Christ our King
One with His rising
Freed and forgiven
Thankfully now
God's praise we sing

Verse 3

Baptized in water
Sealed by the Spirit
Marked with the sign
Of Christ our King
Born of one Father
We are His children
Joyfully now
God's praise we sing

Serving in the Liturgy today:

October 1, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	Linda Chiappetta
LEM 8:00 am	Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Linda Chiappetta
Ushers 8:00 am	Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:00 am	Ricki Minix
LEM 10:00 am	Susan Clarke, Bob Virtue, Gerrie Vergona
Altar Guild 10:00am	Beverly Larson, Karen Mauro
Ushers 10:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

Sanctuary Candle *The Sanctuary Candle is given to The Glory of God*

*In Memory of
Ernest J. Clarke, my father
by Susan Clarke*

Altar Flowers *Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
Julia Everlynn Gilbert
by St. Stephen's Ministry*

*In Memory of
Diane Jacobs
by St Stephen's Ministry*





Our continued course-reading from Matthew's Gospel has brought us to a section in which Jesus, in parables, expresses the challenge of living up to the gospel. These parables also contain a warning to those who are "resting on their laurels." The church is always confronted by its Lord's warning that God is not dependent on us. If we fail in our faith and commitment, God can and will give the kingdom to others.

The first reading is a passage from the prophet Ezekiel which calls on God's people to repent and return to God. God will reject those who reject the call, but will forgive all those who return in faith and repentance.

In the second reading Paul tells us that it is in Jesus' willing submission to God's will, even to the point of death on a cross, that the glory of God is seen. We are called to live in the same way, the way of the cross. In that way we will be the means of revealing God's glory in our own time.

As we gather in the Eucharist we find God revealing himself to us in Word and Sacrament, the ongoing means by which Jesus' dying and rising is experienced in the world. We as members of his Body are joined with him in this liturgy not only to receive his salvation but also to continue his work of redemption.

Shall We Gather At The River (Hanson Place)

Verse 1

Shall we gather at the river
Where bright angel feet have trod
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God

Chorus

Yes we'll gather at the river
The beautiful the beautiful river
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God

Verse 2

On the margin of the river
Washing up its silver spray
We will talk and worship ever
All the happy golden day

Verse 3

Ere we reach the shining river
Lay we ev'ry burden down
Grace our spirits will deliver
And provide a robe and crown

Verse 4

At the smiling of the river
Mirror of the Savior's face
Saints whom death will never sever
Lift their songs of saving grace

Verse 5

Soon we'll reach the shining river
Soon our pilgrimage will cease
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace

