



# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759

Phone: 732-350-2121, Fax: 732-350-6000

ssechurch@gmail.com

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.



*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

*Christmas Day*



**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**DECEMBER 25, 2023**

**Save the Date on Upcoming Events**

**HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**10 AM**

**Hymnal**

**The Word of God**

**BCP**

87 Processional Hymn: *“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”*  
 Open Acclamation  
 Opening Sentence  
 S280 *Gloria*  
 Collect of the Day  
 First Lesson: **Isaiah 52: 7-10**  
**Psalm 98**  
 Second Lesson: **Hebrew 1: 1-12**  
 Gradual: *“Word of God Speak”* (lyrics below)  
 Gospel: **John 1: 1-14**  
 Sermon — *The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.*  
 The Nicene Creed  
 Prayers of the People (Form III)  
 Confession and Absolution  
 The Peace  
 Announcements  
 Offertory:  
 Doxology: *“All things come of Thee, O Lord”*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

Eucharistic Prayer “B”  
 S112 Sursum Corda  
 S113 Sanctus  
 S136 Memorial Acclamation  
 The Lord’s Prayer  
 S152 Breaking of the Bread  
 S157 Fraction Anthem  
 Communion Hymns;  
 325 *“Let Us Break Bread Together”*  
 101 *“Away In A Manger”*  
 81 *”Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming”*  
 Post Communion Prayer 366  
 91 *“While Shepherds watched their flocks”*  
 Blessing  
 100 Closing Hymn: *“Joy to the World”*  
 Dismissal

**Gradual:**

*“Alleluia, He is Coming”;*  
*“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”*  
*“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”*  
*“I looked up and I saw my Lord a coming”*  
*“I looked up and saw my Lord a coming down the road”*  
*“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”*  
*“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”*

**WOMAN’S BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, 1ST & 3RD Mondays at 11am for info contact: *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863 (No Bible Study in December)*

**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.

**VESTRY MEETING**

Monday, January 22nd @ 10am.

**WHITING GARDEN CLUB**

No meeting in January. Happy Holidays!

**OSL WILL BE MEETING**



**Christmas Services**

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Services**

9am, Fourth Sunday of Advent

3:30pm, Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

4pm, Christmas Eve Eucharist

7pm, Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist with Guitar

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day, Feast of the Nativity at 10am**

**Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - Feast of the Holy Name, service at 10am**

**Jan 6<sup>th</sup> –Epiphany Service at 10am**



## *Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws*

Days and Hours of Operation are:

Tuesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

Wednesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

*Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws* is made up of members of the **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** community and other volunteers who assist in maintaining our pantry, provide food for the sick, the hungry and the needy. The food pantry is here to help those who have minimal funds to work with and come to us when they have a specific need for food.

The *Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws* through very generous donations is also able to provide pet food for dogs and cats. For further information please call: **Jim Jados, Director, Food Pantry at (732) 408-5948.**

## *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](http://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org)

## *TECH THURSDAY*

Tech Thursday meets monthly. Keep an eye out for our new dates to come. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting.

Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will be able assist you.



## *CARE GIVERS VOLUNTEERS*

Caregivers volunteers, is a faith base organization that offer assistance to the elderly.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact

Caregivers at 732-505-2273 Ext 213

## *Mark your calendars*

On January 14th 2024 we welcome

Bishop Sally French here at St Stephen's Episcopal Church

There will be one service at 9am and a pot luck after.



## *Collect of the Day*

**A**lmighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever... *Amen.*

## *A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 52:7-10*

**H**ow beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

who brings good news,

who announces salvation,

who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see

the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.



# Psalm 98

## Cantate Domino

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.



## A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you"? Or again,  
"I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son"?



**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 2024 - 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

**Memorial Garden For Pets**  
 Keep an eye out for our next Memorial Service Date.  
 For all who are looking for a special place to lay your beloved pets to rest.  
 Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am–1:30pm for more info  
 (732) 350-2121



## Daughters of the British Empire

The (DBE) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit American society of women of British or Commonwealth of Nations birth, heritage or ancestry. We share and promote our heritage while supporting local charities and our senior living facilities across the United States.

To learn more about our local chapter, here in Ocean County, please email *Joan Saunders* – njstateorganizer@gmail.com



### Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month— January 11th, 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



### *Helping Seniors navigate the Medicare arena for 10+ years.*



Contact us for info and any questions you may have

106 Union Ave Manasquan, NJ 08736

[info@seniormomentsmedicare.com](mailto:info@seniormomentsmedicare.com)

(732) 528-4580

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And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;

like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,

and your years will never end."

### *A reading from the Gospel according to John 1:1-14*

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



Welcome to St. Stephen's

W elcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We welcome people of every race and tongue and faith to this celebration. We invite you to participate fully and to join us in rejoicing at the birth of the one who is the fulfillment of the deepest and best hopes of all people and all faiths.

Luke describes Jesus' birth with the song of angels and the shepherds who were the first to learn of that birth and the first to come to see the infant. In those days shepherds were a despised group rejected by most people. Luke's inclusion of them in the story stresses that God has come for all people, high and low, rich and poor.

Centuries earlier, Isaiah had foreseen the coming of the Messiah as the establishment of God's reign. This event would summon all people into God's Kingdom and make of them "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord." Paul, writing to Titus, tells us that in the water of baptism we too have been made part of that people and given eternal life. In story, song, word, and sacrament we celebrate the coming of God into the world and renew our own place in the story of God's salvation of all of humanity.



From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.

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*Serving in the Liturgy today:*

*December 25, 2023*

Lector 10:00 am *Ricki Minix*  
LEM 10:00 am *Bill Bodine, Richard Smithson*  
Altar Guild 10:00 am *Linda Chiappetta*  
Ushers 10:00 am *Bill Bodine*

## *Altar Flowers*

*Altar Flowers are given to  
the Glory of God*

*These flowers are placed*

*In Loving Memory of  
William Bodine  
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

*In Loving Memory of  
Jaqueline Bodine  
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

*In Loving Memory of  
Pat Larson  
by JoAnn Smithson*

*In Loving Memory of  
Bill, Hope, Kim & Michelle  
by Dottie Kaster*

*In Loving Memory of  
Eugene Byrne  
by St Stephens Ministry*

## *Sanctuary Candle*

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

*This candle burns*

*In Loving Memory of  
Jaqueline Bodine  
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

*In Loving Memory of  
Eugene Byrne  
by St Stephens Ministry*

*In Honor of  
Baby Jesus's Birthday  
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

*In Loving Memory of  
William Bodine  
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*