



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.



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

(Proper 15)

Please welcome

The Rev. Mark Van Sant

God be merciful to us
and bless us

PSALM 67

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
544	ProceSSIONAL Hymn: “Jesus Shall Reign” Patriotic Hymn: 717, V4 Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion Collect of the Day	Insert Insert
	First Lesson: Isaiah 56:1,6-8 Psalm 67	Insert Insert
	Second Lesson: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Insert
	Gradual: “Word of God, speak” (Lyrics below)	
	Gospel: Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28	Insert
	Sermon — <i>Rev. Mark Van Sant</i> The Nicene Creed Prayers of the People Form VI Confession and Absolution The Peace Announcements Offertory Anthem Doxology: “All things come of thee O Lord”	392 393

HOLY COMMUNION

	Eucharistic Prayer A	361
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S136	Memorial Acclamation The Lord’s Prayer	363 364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem Communion Hymns	
325	“Let us break bread together”	
542	“Christ is the worlds true Light”	
556	“Rejoyce ye pure in heart”	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
539	Recessional: “O Zion Haste” 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*

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am-12:30pm
 for info contact: *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863*

CHOIR PRACTICE

Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs. We will return to practice in September.

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.

OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday September 14th, after the Healing Service

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, September 11th @10 AM

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, September 25th @ 10am.



PLEDGE CARDS

If you filled in a pledge card, your envelopes are in the Narthex on the shelf, right side before you enter the church. If you need envelopes, see our treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

UTO INGATHERING AND ANNUAL MEETING

The Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting and UTO Ingathering has a date and location change. It will be held on Saturday, October 21 at 10AM at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Beach Haven. The Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson, the UTO Co-Chair will be our host. Bishop Sally will be attending this in person event. 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.

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

The Healing Light of Christ Chapter of



THE INTERNATIONAL
ORDER of ST. LUKE
— THE PHYSICIAN —

“Healing Mission”

Saturday, September 16th 2023

St Stephen’s Episcopal Church

367 Rt 9, Waretown, NJ

Mission Leader

Fr. Lockner

For mor info contact Corinne Cromwell at 732-849-0153 and Michele Sieling at 609-339-1771

VISITING CLERGY

Today we welcome the Rev. Mark Van Sant to celebrate at both services. while Fr. Paul is on vacation. On Sundays, August 13, and 27, Stefanie Bodine will conduct the service of Morning Prayer, with Susan Clarke as our preacher, and Bill Bodine on tech. We hope you will join us in-person or online. We also hope to have guest soloists at the offertory, as well as coffee hour after each service. COME AND SEE!

SAVE THE DATE For Operation Christmas Child

It’s hard to believe, but the Fall is right around the Corner. Shoeboxes and written material have been ordered from Samaritan’s Purse. They will be available in September for those who wish to participate by filling one or more Shoeboxes for needy children in the USA and around the world.



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.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever... *Amen.*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Thus says the Lord:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

“And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—

these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

Psalm 67

Deus misereatur

- 1 **M**ay God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.



A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Asks, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may receive mercy. For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all.



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **Summer 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.

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

COFFEE HOUR  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

ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

Saturday, September 2nd, at 8am-12pm, will our annual Flea Market here at St. Stephen's. Starting in August, we will be accepting items. Please bring in gently used and new items such as household items, small furniture, crafts, collectables, tools, linens, electronics. Please leave items on our Parish Hall Stage, across from the kitchen. Not in the entrance or foyer for safety reasons.

Questions call the office at 732-350-2121 (More details to come)



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month— August 10th, 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



TECH THURSDAY



Tech Thursday meets monthly. Our next meeting will be announced soon. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.



100 years of blessings

for

Marjorie Redfern

(Aug 17, 2023)



(Rescheduled date)

At St Stephen's on Wednesday September 13th at 10am. The cost is \$25. The \$ is due on the day of the class. The instructional materials are from the American Heart Association and we will practice on CPR dummies. Contact Stefanie at (732) 350-2904 if you plan to come. 6-30 people may participate.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand: not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man." Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" He answered, "Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." And he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and so passes on? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.



Welcome to St. Stephen's

Today we reach a watershed moment in Jesus' ministry as recounted by Matthew. Jesus asks his disciples who they believe he is. It is Simon Peter who replies, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus affirms Peter's leadership of the church even though Peter will show lack of certainty in this confession later.

Just as Simon was called "the Rock" (in Greek, *Petros*), so in the Hebrew scriptures Abraham and Sarah are the rock from which the people of God are hewn. From them comes a people for whom God provides a joyous salvation.

We continue to read from the Epistle to the Romans in the second lesson. The final section, which we begin today, deals with the way God's people are to live in relationship to each other and to the world. Today Paul focuses on the varied ministries of all members of the Church given to us in baptism.

All our attempts to explain our faith—from Peter's faltering faith to Paul's complex theology—rest upon the encounter we have as a people with God. That encounter leads always into the symbolic, the metaphorical and sacramental expressions of Christian worship and that always leads us into the various ministries to which God has called us. Our most profound theological expression is this action of Word and Sacrament, of story, song, meal, and bath, which is at the center of our worship.

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

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Serving in the Liturgy today:

August 20, 2023

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

Sanctuary Candle

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

In Honor of

*In Thanksgiving for
100 years of Blessings*

*Marjorie Redfern - 100th Birthday
(Aug 17, 2023)*

*In Memory of
Stephen Casale*

by Benedetto & Christina Casale

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

In Memory of

*Harry Tomkins, Kathy Molnar & Judy
DeYoung by Ruth Molnar*

