



## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759

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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.



# Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(Proper 17)

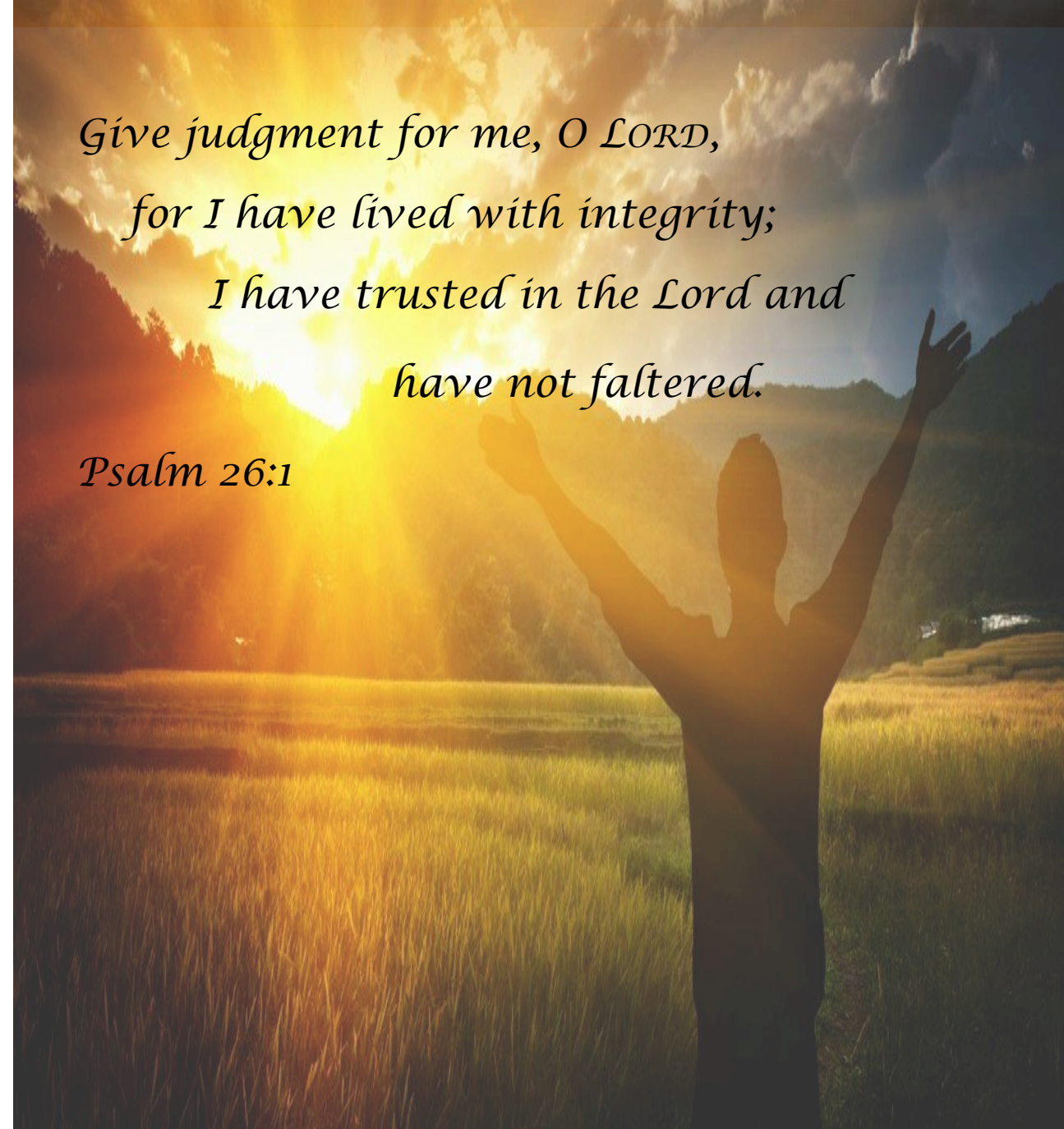
*Give judgment for me, O LORD,*

*for I have lived with integrity;*

*I have trusted in the Lord and*

*have not faltered.*

*Psalm 26:1*



<b>Hymnal</b>	<b>The Word of God</b>	<b>BCP</b>
379	Processional Hymn: <i>“God is love, let Heaven adore Him”</i> Patriotic Hymn: 717, V4 Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <b>Jeremiah 15:15-21</b>	Insert
	<b>Psalm 26</b>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <b>Romans 12:9-21</b>	Insert
	Gradual: <i>“Word of God, speak”</i> (Lyrics below)	
	Gospel: <b>Matthew 16:21-28</b>	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People Form VI	392
	Confession and Absolution	359
	The Peace	
	Announcements	
	Offertory Anthem	
	Doxology: <i>“All things come of thee O Lord”</i>	

**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	<i>“Let us break bread together”</i>	
	<i>“Jesus, Jesus, there’s just something about that name”</i>	
644	<i>“How sweet the name of Jesus sounds”</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
	Recessional: <i>“I have decided to follow Jesus”</i>	
	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”, 1ST & 3RD Mondays at 11am 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.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP MEETING**

September 3rd after 10am service

**WHITING GARDEN CLUB**

Wednesday Sept 6 at 10AM

**ECW MEETING**

Thursday September 7th at 11AM

**THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

Monday, September 11th @10 AM

**OSL WILL BE MEETING**

On Thursday September 14th, after the Healing Service

**VESTRY MEETING**

Monday, September 25th @ 10am.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS MEETING**

Set for Sunday, September 17th, after the 10am service

**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](http://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

## *The Atlantic Convocation*

### *A Healing Service*

Open your heart to receive God's love and experience His healing power on a profound level. This service provides an environment where you can encounter the healing touch of the Divine Physician.

**Wednesday, September 13, at 6pm.**

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Sanctuary**

**180 Rt 539, Whiting NJ**

Refreshments will be served

## 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 note-books, 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*

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 Jeremiah 15:15-21*

Ⓟ Lord, thou knowest;  
remember me and visit me,  
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.

In thy forbearance take me not away;  
know that for thy sake I bear reproach.

Thy words were found, and I ate them,  
and thy words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;  
for I am called by thy name,

O Lord, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,  
nor did I rejoice;

I sat alone, because thy hand was upon me,  
for thou hadst filled me with indignation.

Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Wilt thou be to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail?

Therefore thus says the Lord:  
“If you return, I will restore you,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not  
what is worthless,  
you shall be as my mouth.

They shall turn to you,  
but you shall not turn to them.

And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the Lord

**Psalm 26:1-8**

**Judica me, Domine**

- 1 Give judgment for me, O LORD,  
for I have lived with integrity; \*  
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- 2 Test me, O LORD, and try me; \*  
examine my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your love is before my eyes; \*  
I have walked faithfully with you.
- 4 I have not sat with the worthless, \*  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
- 5 I have hated the company of evildoers; \*  
I will not sit down with the wicked.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, \*  
that I may go in procession round your altar,
- 7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving \*  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- 8 LORD, I love the house in which you dwell \*  
and the place where your glory abides.




**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



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– September 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



## TECH THURSDAY

Tech Thursday meets monthly. Our next meeting will be on September 14th at 12:30pm. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.

## Stewardship Meeting

Will be held on Sunday, September 3rd, after the 10am service.

## Public Relations Meeting

Set for Sunday, September 17th, after the 10am service

## (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 Paul's letter to the Romans 12:9-21

**L**et love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 16:21-28

**F**rom that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom."



Welcome to St. Stephen's

Beginning with today's Gospel reading, the ministry of Jesus is directed toward his approaching death and resurrection and his preparing the disciples for that event. Peter, who moments before expressed his faith in Jesus as the Messiah, now recoils at the thought of Jesus' death. Jesus begins to explain that the way into the kingdom of God is sacrifice. His death and resurrection will be the model for that way. In the Old Testament reading the prophet Jeremiah, himself persecuted and rejected, reflects on his experience and from that comes to the hope of redemption through God's love.

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, ministries given to us in Baptism.

In the Eucharist we find both of the scriptural themes for today. We are given many and varied ways of ministering, and the Eucharist is a model of our ministries to the world. In the Eucharist, by remembering Christ's dying and rising, we become participants in that redemptive action. Our own lives are filled with its meaning, because we share in Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. Copyright © 1998 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.*

## Serving in the Liturgy today:

September 3, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	Susan Quigley
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	Valerie Thompson
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  
My beloved Dusty  
by Ann Solaequi***

