



## 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.

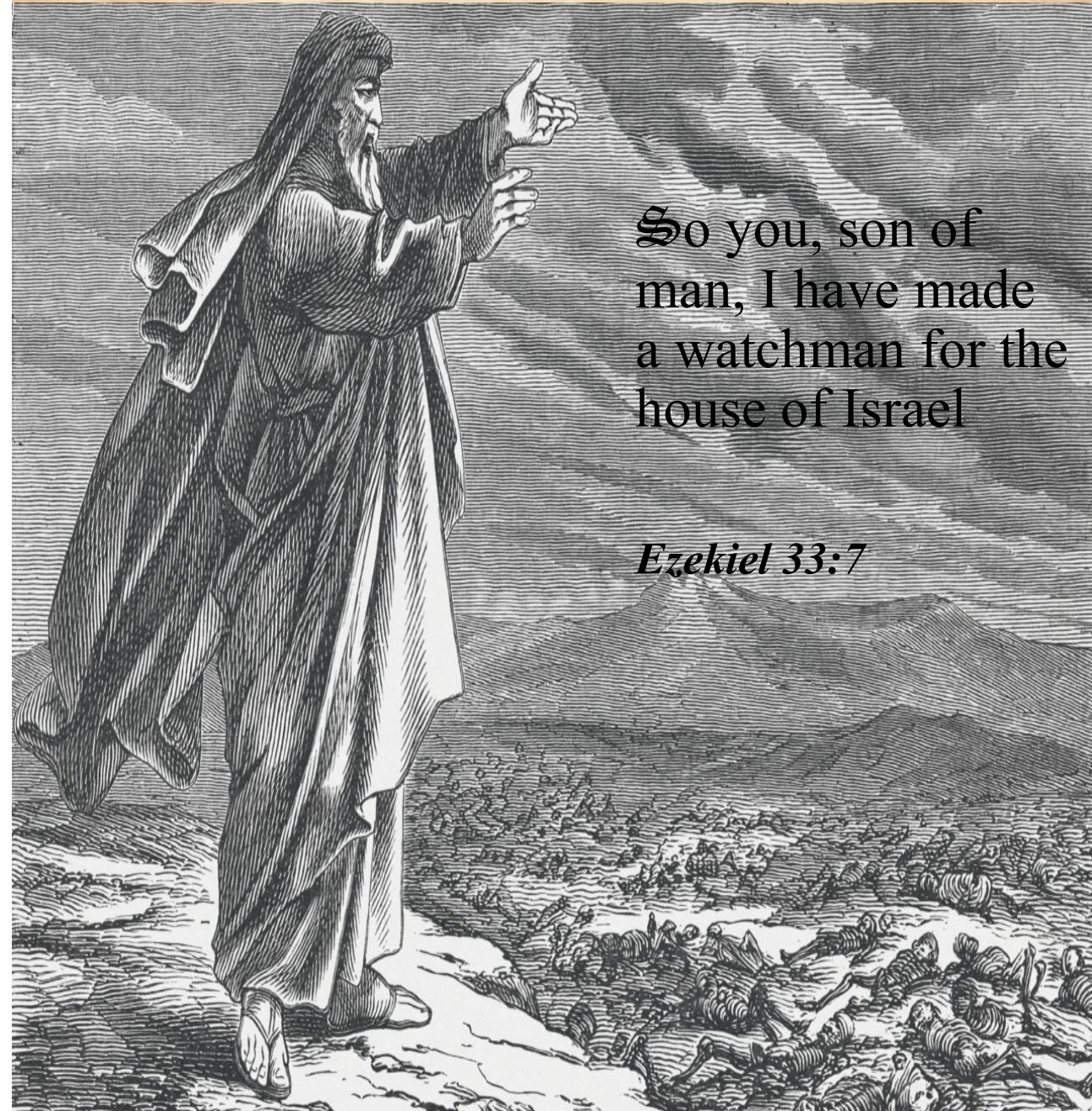
If it is an emergency you may also reach Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or

Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(Proper 18)



So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel

*Ezekiel 33:7*

**Hymnal**

336 Processional Hymn: “Come with us, O Blessed Jesus”  
Patriotic Hymn: 717, V4  
Opening Acclamation  
S102 Trisagion  
Collect of the Day  
First Lesson: **Ezekiel 33:7-11**  
**Psalm 119**  
Second Lesson: **Romans 12:9-21**  
Gradual: “Word of God, speak” (Lyrics below)  
Gospel: **Matthew 16:21-28**  
Sermon — *The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.*  
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”

**The Word of God**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

Eucharistic Prayer A  
S120 Sursum Corda  
S125 Sanctus  
S136 Memorial Acclamation  
The Lord’s Prayer  
Breaking of the Bread  
S152 Fraction Anthem  
Communion Hymns  
325 “Let us break bread together”  
“Blessed Assurance”  
“There is a place of quiet rest”  
Post Communion Prayer  
Blessing  
Recessional: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”  
Dismissal

**BCP**

355  
Insert  
Insert  
Insert

Insert

358  
392  
359

361  
363  
364

**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*

**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.

**WHITING GARDEN CLUB**

Wednesday October 4th at 10AM

**THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

Monday, September 11th & October 9th @10 AM



**OSL WILL BE MEETING**

On Thursday September 14th & October 12th 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 Saint Luke*

“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

### THANK YOU

To everyone that helped organize, sold items, cleaned up, and assisted with all of our flea market items. The Salvation Army took everything away to help others. Thank you for all your donations. The profit is about \$2000 with some people still paying for items that they bought. Thank you to Tom and Bev Larson, Stefanie Bodine for helping to organize the plan of action.

### 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.

**Tuesday, September 26, 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 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*

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever... *Amen.*

### *A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel 33:7-11*

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way; he shall die in his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?’ Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?”

**Psalm 119:33-40**

**Legem pone**

- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, \*  
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \*  
for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees \*  
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \*  
give me life in your ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, \*  
which you make to those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \*  
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \*  
in your righteousness preserve my life.



**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.

## ***THANK YOU***

I wanted to say a special Thank You to all the bakers who generously donated baked goods for the Bake Sale at the Fair last week. Everyone enjoyed the variety of cookies and cakes, and although we did not sell out this year, there wasn't very much left, and we made a nice profit. Thank you all for your kindness. *JoAnn Smithson*



### ***(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 13:8-14***

“We owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## ***A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-20***

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”



Welcome to St. Stephen's

As we continue to read through the Gospel according to Matthew, we now reach a section in which Jesus teaches about God's way of dealing with humanity: namely, forgiveness. Today's reading is primarily concerned with the church's role as the agent of forgiveness. Even when a member of the church is unrepentant, the church is not to give up on that person easily. Every effort is to be made to move the sinner to repent and accept the forgiveness of God which Jesus has commissioned the church to offer.

In the first reading, the Prophet Ezekiel is commissioned to warn the people of the need to repent. The central message is that God has no desire to condemn; God's deepest desire is to forgive.

Today's passage from the Epistle to the Romans deals with the characteristics of Christian living. Note that we are called to love each other and to recognize that our lives are completely bound up in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

We gather as the people of God, having found in our relationship with God that he is our Lover and our Savior, not an angry or condemning judge. We find in our lives together as church that we are not only the recipients of God's love and forgiveness but also sent into the world as the instruments of that love to all people.

*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 10, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	Linda Chiappetta
LEM 8:00 am	JoAnn Smithson, Richard Smithson
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Linda Chiappetta
Ushers 8:00 am	Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:00 am	Gerrie Vergona
LEM 10:00 am	Bob Virtue, Bill Bodine, Kay Karlick
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*

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

