



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.



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(Proper 19)



*He forgives all your sins
and heals all
your infirmities*

Psalms 103:3

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
427	Processional Hymn: “ <i>When Morning Gilds To The Skies</i> ” Patriotic Hymn: 717, V4 Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion Collect of the Day	Insert Insert
	First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103	Insert Insert
	Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12	Insert
	Gradual: “ <i>Word of God, speak</i> ” (Lyrics below)	
	Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35	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> ”	
Insert	“ <i>In The Garden</i> ”	
411	“ <i>O Bless The Lord, My Soul</i> ”	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
390	Recessional: “ <i>Praise To The Lord The Almighty</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*

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, October 9th @10 AM



OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday 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

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.**

Blessing of
the
Animals



**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

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

☪ God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 Genesis 50:15-21

But so much the more the report went abroad concerning him; and great multitudes gathered to hear and to be healed of their infirmities. But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed.

On one of those days, as he was teaching, there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. And behold, men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they sought to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this that speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only?"

Psalm 103

Benedic, anima mea

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;

- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.



A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans 14:1-12

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

One man esteems one day as better than another, while another man esteems all days alike. Let every one be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. He also who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God;




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!

Antipasti, bread, N/A beverages, and desserts will be included, along with delightful Italian dinner music. Seating will be limited, so mark your calendars for **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– 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 October 26th at 12:30pm. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.

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

Dear fellow parishioners

Once again you stepped up and contributed your time, talent and fabulous food to make our Welcome Back BBQ a huge success!

As I looked around the parish hall I saw nothing but laughter, love and fellowship!

Your generosity and help continues to make us proud of our church family.

A special shout out to our Chef Richard Smithson , our Hospitality Committee, a group of extraordinary woman who always answer the call, you are the best!

Maryann Payne

while he who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So each of us shall give account of himself to God.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt.

When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”



Welcome to St. Stephen's

We continue to read from the section of Matthew's Gospel which deals with God's forgiveness and our role in extending God's forgiveness to all people. Peter asks Jesus how many times he is to forgive someone who wrongs him. Jesus tells a parable in which he explains that God's total forgiveness of us lays on us the obligation to forgive our brothers and sisters unconditionally.

The first reading sets out the Old Testament's call for us to act with forgiveness to others. In fact, our forgiveness of others is essential if we are to receive forgiveness from God. Jesus repeats this principle in the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. . . ."

Today we conclude our reading through of the Epistle to the Romans, which we began in the summer. Paul calls on Christians to refrain from judging one another. The differences between the ways various ones of us follow Christ are to be accepted. Our responsibility is to love God and each other.

We gather as Christians have always gathered—a community marked by faith and obedience to God's Word. That obedience applies not only to our relationship with God but also to our relationships with each other. We are to be a community marked by acceptance of all and by forgiveness. Not a gathering of perfected saints—we are, rather, a gathering of sinners who have known God's love and forgiveness and who in turn extend that love and forgiveness 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 17, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	Susan Quigley
LEM 8:00 am	Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Linda Chiappetta
Ushers 8:00 am	Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:00 am	Mike Munson
LEM 10:00 am	Susan Clarke, Bob Virtue
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*

