



# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759

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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.



# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20)



<b>Hymnal</b>	<b>The Word of God</b>	<b>BCP</b>
410	Proclamation Hymn: "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven" Patriotic Hymn: 717, V4 Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <b>Jonah 3:10-4:11</b>	Insert
	<b>Psalm 145</b>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <b>Philippians 1:21-30</b>	Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God, speak" (Lyrics below)	
	Gospel: <b>Matthew 20:1-16</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: "All things come of thee O Lord"	

**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	"Let us break bread together"	
Insert	"I am weak, but Thou art strong"	
522	"Glorious thing of Thee are spoken"	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
685	Recessional: "Rock of ages"	
	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.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP MEETING**

Stewardship Season officially opens on Sunday, October 1st. And that we have a dynamic slate of talented speakers this year with our Consecration Sunday speaker as Canon Phyllis Jones from the Diocese on Sunday, November 12th.

## 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)

### 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.**



**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*

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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 Jonah 3:10-4:11*

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God repented of the evil which he had said he would do to them; and he did not do it.

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the Lord and said, "I pray thee, Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that thou art a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repentest of evil. Therefore now, O Lord, take my life from me, I beseech thee, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city.

And the Lord God appointed a plant, and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm which attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a sultry east wind, and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah so that he was faint; and he asked that he might die, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." And the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night, and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

**Psalm 145:1-8**

**Exaltabo te, Deus**

1 **I** will exalt you, O God my King, \*

and bless your Name for ever and ever.

2 Every day will I bless you \*

and praise your Name for ever and ever.

3 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*

there is no end to his greatness.

4 One generation shall praise your works to another \*

and shall declare your power.

5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty \*

and all your marvelous works.

6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, \*

and I will tell of your greatness.

7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; \*

they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, \*

slow to anger and of great kindness.



**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— October 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



**SENIOR  
MOMENTS  
MEDICARE  
SOLUTIONS**

Sign up to join us again on  
**Tuesday, October 10, from 10am to Noon**  
Here at St Stephen's Church  
learn more about Social Security/Medicare/  
Disability. And find out how easy it is to get help  
when you have a problem.  
Free to the public!

## ***A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians 1:21-30***

**F**or to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear omen to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict which you saw and now hear to be mine.

## ***A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 20:1-16***

**F**or the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."



Welcome to St. Stephen's

The theme of today's liturgy is set by the Gospel reading. The parable of the laborers in the vineyard is one of Jesus' most important statements concerning God's call to all people. That call is always open regardless of our past level of commitment. Those who accept it late are rewarded equally with those of long standing in the kingdom. It is, of course, also a warning to those of God's people who have been committed to God for many years, lest they consider themselves superior to those newly responding to the call of God.

The first reading is related to this theme. Jonah is angry that Israel's old enemies, the people of Nineveh, have repented and have been forgiven. God replies to Jonah's temper tantrum with the message that the God of Israel cares for all people and for all creatures.

Today we begin reading Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. Written to encourage the Philippian church, the letter comes from a period when Paul was imprisoned and his own life was in danger.

God's promise to us is not a reward for doing things right. It is our heritage as children and heirs of God's promise. When we gather to sing and tell the story of God's salvation, we discover anew our identity and the identity of all people. Not content to have us merely as creatures, God has made us sons and daughters who feast at the table of God's home, which is our home as well.

## Serving in the Liturgy today:

September 24, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	JoAnn Smithson
LEM 8:00 am	Richard Smithson, JoAnn Smithson
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Linda Chiappetta
Ushers 8:00 am	Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:00 am	Kay Karlick
LEM 10:00 am	Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine, Dottie Kaster
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*

