



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.



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22)



Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
380	Processional Hymn: <i>“From all that dwell below the skies”</i> Patriotic Hymn: 717, V4 Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion Collect of the Day	<i>Insert</i>
	First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80: 1-7	<i>Insert</i>
	Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14	<i>Insert</i>
	Gradual: <i>“Word of God Speak” (lyrics below)</i>	
	Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46	<i>Insert</i>
	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	
S133	Memorial Acclamation The Lord’s Prayer	363 364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem Communion Hymns	
325	<i>“Let us break bread together”</i>	
383	<i>“Fairest Lord Jesus”</i>	
379	<i>“God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him”</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
371	Recessional: <i>“Thou Whose Almighty Word”</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*

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 November 1st at 10AM

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, October 9th @10 AM

OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday October 12th after the Healing Service

Crop Walk

Sunday is October 15th at 2pm at the Community Reformed Church.
Noisy Sunday collection at both services.



Boscov's Friends helping Friends

tickets are being sold for the **October 18** event at the store from 8am to 11pm. The \$5 donation benefits the church and you benefit from shopping with great discounts all day.

UTO INGATHERING AND ANNUAL MEETING

The UTO for United Thank Offering will be collected by October 21. The Diocesan ECW Annual meeting will be held on Saturday, October 21 from 10am at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Beach Haven, NJ. It will also be on zoom. The Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson, the UTO Co-Chair will be our host. Bishop Sally will be attending this event in person. 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.

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, October 23rd @ 10am.

TECH THURSDAY

Tech Thursday meets monthly. Our next meeting will be on October 26th at 12:30pm

Forward Day by Day

has arrived for November, December, 2023, and January 2024. Donations May be placed in the lockbox on the tract rack, or in an envelope earmarked for Forward Day by Day. The large print edition will be available soon.

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

SAVE THE DATE For Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are available in the coffee room. Firms, and information tell you how to fill your shoebox and what to do with them. Return them filled to church with your checks and they will be sent on to the next location to be shipped where they are needed. Barbara Marshall is the chair. Ask her your questions.

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.

Memorial Garden For Pets

(Remains Only)

For all who are looking for a special place to lay your beloved pets to rest.

Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am–1:30pm for more info
(732) 350-2121

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

WOMAN OF HONOR

Saturday, October 14 at 10am, join us on zoom for the Women of Honor event for the Diocesan ECW. Go to the Diocesan website to join us. Marge Pomykala will be honored from our church.

WOMANS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, 1ST & 3RD Mondays at 11am for info contact:
Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;

he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,

judge between me
and my vineyard.

What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and
thorns;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,

and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;

he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;

righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Psalm 80:7-14

Qui regis Israel

- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *
you cast out the nations and planted it.
- 9 You prepared the ground for it; *
it took root and filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered by its shadow *
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
- 11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *
and its branches to the River.
- 12 Why have you broken down its wall, *
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- 13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- 14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.



A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians 3:4b-14

If any other man thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law a Pharisee, as to zeal a persecutor of the church, as to righteousness under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



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

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 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



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.**

Sign up to join us again on

Tuesday, October 10, from 10am to Noon

Here at St Stephen's Church

Senior Moments will be sharing information on Medicare, Disability, and Social Security on Tuesday, October 10 at 10am. Call the church Office to sign up for this free event.

Get your questions answered.

Free to the public!



Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 21:33-46

Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The very stone which the builders rejected

has become the head of the corner;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. But when they tried to arrest him, they feared the multitudes, because they held him to be a prophet.



Welcome to St. Stephen's

In today's liturgy we have a parable warning us as the church to be faithful to God lest God turn away from us. This parable may have been a simple story about the need to seize the opportunity God holds out. Matthew has taken images, especially from today's Old Testament reading, and allegorized the original story to make a point which the church in his day needed to hear and which we need to hear today.

The first reading is Isaiah's Song of the Vineyard. Here the prophet starts with a simple song about agriculture, but turns it around into a warning to the leaders and the people of Israel in his day.

Paul calls on the church in Philippi to hold fast to their faith and practice. He contrasts them to those whose concern is not with God's heavenly call but with this world only. We are citizens of heaven, Paul tells us, and we are destined for glory.

God's people need the warnings of the prophets and of Jesus to balance our knowledge that we have been redeemed. While God's action of redeeming us is set and established, we must nevertheless live the lives of redeemed people. Our weekly gatherings in the Eucharist are not meant to lull us into complacency but to strengthen us and equip us to follow the way of Christ.

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:

October 8, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	JoAnne Smithson
LEM 8:00 am	Richard Smithson, JoAnne Smithson
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	Bob Virtue, Bill Bodine, Kay Karlick
Altar Guild 10:00am	Valerie Thompson
Ushers 10:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

Sanctuary Candle
***The Sanctuary Candle is given to
The Glory of God***
This candle burns
In Loving Memory
of those who are not here today, but
who are present in our hearts.

Altar Flowers
***Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God***
In Memory of
Diane Jacobs
by St. Stephen's Ministry

