



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

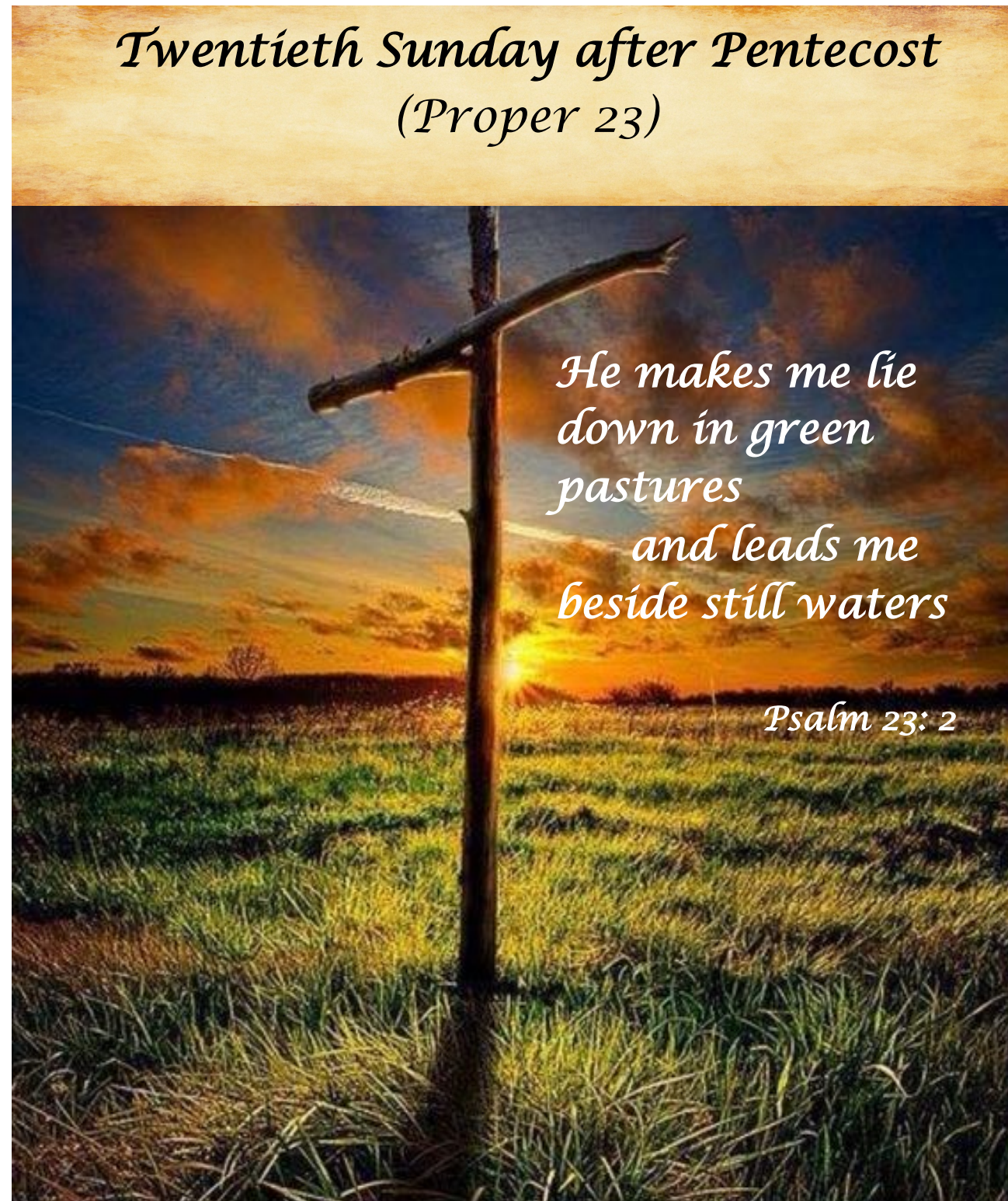
Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 23)

*He makes me lie
down in green
pastures
and leads me
beside still waters*

Psalm 23: 2



**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 23
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**OCT 15, 2023
8 & 10am**

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
660	Proclamation Hymn: "O Master, let me walk with Thee"	
	Patriotic Hymn: 717, V4	
	Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion	
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-9	Insert
	Psalm 23	Insert
	Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-13	Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God Speak" (lyrics below)	
	Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14	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	
S133	Memorial Acclamation	363
	The Lord's Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns	
325	"Let us break bread together"	
Insert	"Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"	
316	"This is the hour of banquet and of song"	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
556	Recessional: "Rejoice ye pure in heart"	
	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, November 13th @10 AM

OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday November 9th 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

(Cremains 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

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*

Stewardship Committee Meeting

October 15 after the 10AM coffee hour.

UTO Ingathering and Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting

is next Saturday October 21 at 10AM at Holy Innocents Church in Beach Haven.

Collect of the Day

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; 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 Isaiah 25:1-9



Ⓟ Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For thou hast made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify thee; cities of ruthless nations will fear thee. For thou hast been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat; for the blast of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall, like heat in a dry place. Thou dost subdue the noise of the aliens; as heat by the shade of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

- 1 **T**he Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



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  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.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians 4:4-13

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with 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. plus the donation of a small door prize.

Tables are sold out!

please call **JoAnn Smithson 609-575-1879.**



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month— November 9th, 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.**

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

I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me; you were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 22:1-14

And again Jesus spoke to [the people] in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding

garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”



Serving in the Liturgy today:

October 15, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Linda Chiappetta</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Linda Chiappetta</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:00 am	<i>Mike Munson</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Susan Clarke, Bob Virtue, Dottie Kaster</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Beverly Larson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

During these last weeks of the Church Year, we come to the section of Matthew's Gospel marked by intense confrontations between Jesus and the religious establishment; these confrontations were to lead to his crucifixion. In today's Gospel, Jesus is again teaching about the kingdom. Here it is described in a way which antagonized the establishment. If those who are religious do not respond to God's call, they will be replaced by others who do respond.

In the first reading, Isaiah foresees the kingdom of God as a great feast—the same image Jesus uses in today's Gospel reading—and as a feast for all people, not just a few.

We continue to read Paul's Letter to the Philippians. Paul urges the people of God to persevere in living the Christian way, confident in hope of the kingdom's fulfillment.

Our gathering in the Eucharist is a foreshadowing of the kingdom of God. We are called to bring all people into this fellowship and meal. In that way the kingdom of God is revealed and humanity's hope is made more certain.

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*

