



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.



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24)

Psalm 96:1



Sing a new song to
the Lord!
Let the whole
earth sing to the Lord!

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
372	Processional Hymn: <i>“Praise to the living God”</i> Patriotic Hymn: 717, V4 Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion Collect of the Day	<i>Insert</i>
	First Lesson: Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96	<i>Insert</i>
	Second Lesson: Thessalonians 1:1-10	<i>Insert</i>
	Gradual: <i>“Word of God Speak” (lyrics below)</i>	
	Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14	<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	363
	The Lord’s Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns	
325	<i>“Let us break bread together”</i>	
404	<i>“We Will Extol You Ever Blessed Lord”</i>	
423	<i>“Immortal, Invisible”</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	
	Blessing	365
544	Recessional: <i>“Jesus Shall Reign”</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*

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.

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

WHITING GARDEN CLUB

Wednesday November 1st at 10AM

OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday November 9th after the Healing Service

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, November 13th @10 AM

PINELANDS SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT Sunday November 19th, 2pm

Enjoy, Sit back, and listen to the sounds of the season, with holiday music and memorable classics. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the door or in our Church office from Monday—Thursday 9-2pm 180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759 In our Parish Hall



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

CHOIR PRACTICE

Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; 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 Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and ungird the loins of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
“I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut asunder the bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I gird you, though you do not know me,
that men may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe,
I am the Lord, who do all these things.

Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)

Cantate Domino

- 1 **S**ing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.



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. 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

A reading from Paul's First letter to the Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brethren beloved by God, that he has chosen you; for our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit; so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us what a welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle him in his talk. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God truthfully, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the money for the tax." And they brought him a coin. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard it, they marveled; and they left him and went away.



Serving in the Liturgy today:

October 22, 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	Kay Karlick
LEM 10:00 am	Susan Clarke, Bob Virtue, Gerrie Vergona
Altar Guild 10:00am	Valerie Thompson
Ushers 10:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

As we draw near the end of Matthew's Gospel, the opposition to Jesus intensifies. Today the Pharisees seek to entrap Jesus, asking if it is lawful to pay taxes to the emperor. The trap would be either to offend zealous Jewish patriots, or to offend the ruling class in Jerusalem, including the Romans. Jesus' answer points instead to Jewish teaching that the government, even a pagan one, has legitimate authority, but that authority cannot be allowed to interfere with our duty toward God.

Five hundred years earlier the Jews exiled in Babylon found that their rescuer was a pagan king, Cyrus. Today's first reading refers to that time and we find the Persian king referred to by the prophet Isaiah as God's anointed.

The second reading today begins several weeks of reading Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians. This is probably the earliest of Paul's letters we possess. Things have gone well since he left, and he begins by giving thanks for the Thessalonians' faithfulness. This church, however, has had some problems and confusion about the second coming of Christ. In coming weeks we will hear Paul's teaching about that.

Central to every gathering of Christians for worship is intercessory prayer. Our prayer is always for the church *and* the world. Our faith calls us to care for and minister to all aspects of life. The liturgy reminds us that God is concerned for all creation and is the Savior of all.

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*

