



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

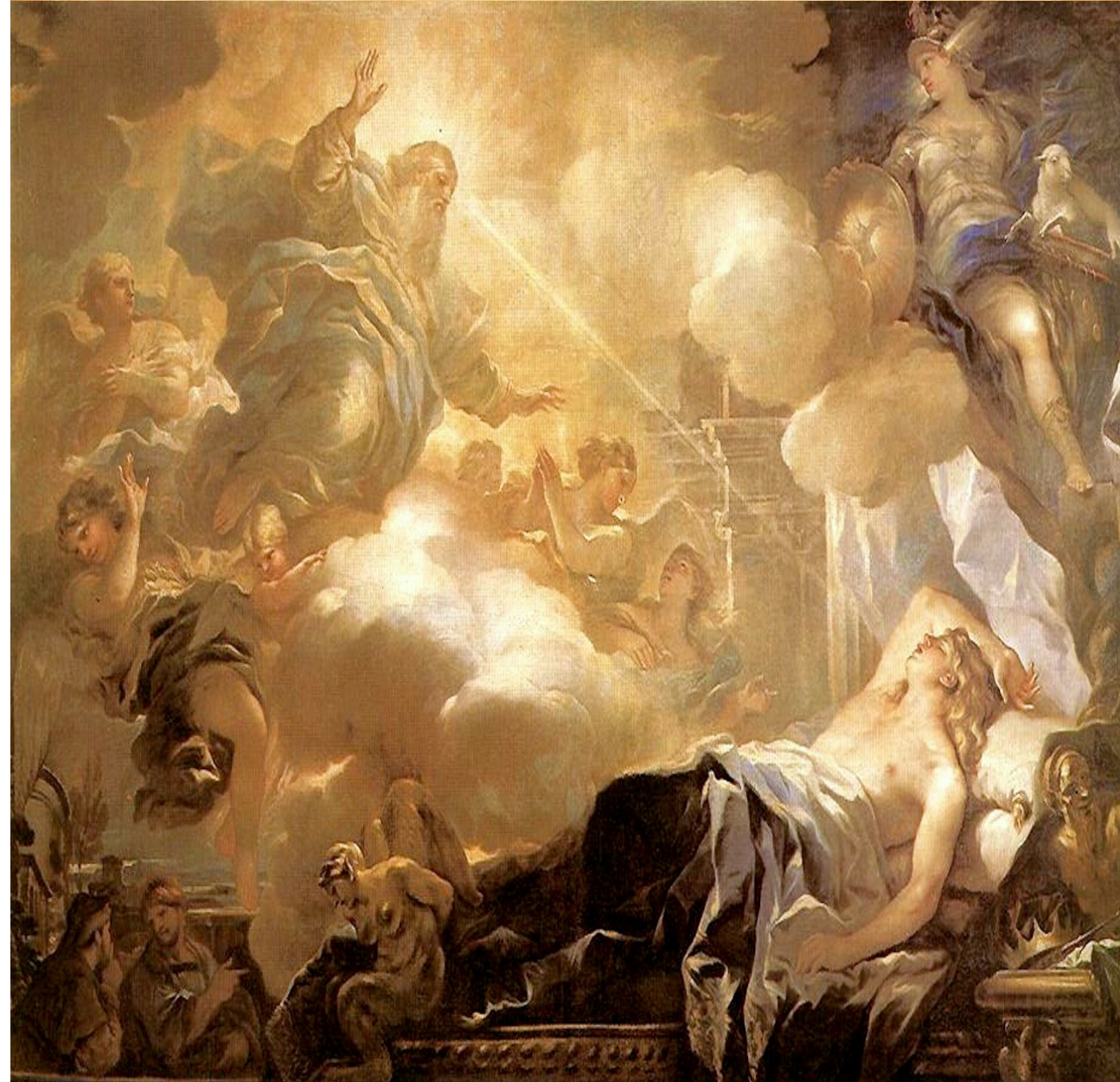
Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

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.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 27)



Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
427	Proclamation Hymn: "When Morning Guilds The Skies" Patriotic Hymn: 717, V4 Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 The Response, Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Insert Insert Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God Speak" (lyrics below) Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13	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"	
516	"Come Down Oh Love Devine"	
535	"Ye Servants Of God"	
	Post Communion Prayer	
	Blessing	365
401	Recessional: "The God Of Abraham Praise"	
	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



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.

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.

VESTRY MEETING
Monday, November 27th @ 10am.

WHITING GARDEN CLUB
Wednesday December 6th at 10AM

OSL WILL BE MEETING
On Thursday November 9th after the Healing Service

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING
Monday, November 13th @10 AM

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Boy scouts Troop 350
Thanksgiving Day Dinner
Thursday November 23th from 11am -1pm
Turkey and all the fixings
A sign-up sheet is in the NARTHEX
Please sign-up to get your meal, here or togo!



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.**

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

PINELANDS SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT

Sunday November 19th, 2pm Enjoy, Sit back, and listen to the sounds of 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.

Refreshment will be served.



ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

A list of non-perishable dry, canned and boxed or bagged foods is available in the Narthex with a sign-up sheet for our ADVENT food Drive. Fill your boxes, and if you have loose items, there will be open boxes are in the Church on the back pew for you to fill. Any questions please call 732-350-2121 for info.

Collect of the Day

Ⓢ God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon 6:12–16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.




The Response, Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction,
and concern for instruction is love of her,
and love of her is the keeping of her laws,
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,
and immortality brings one near to God;
so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.




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

Memorial Garden For Pets
Our First Service is on November 21st at 11pm
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



ANNUAL QUIGLEY CHRISTMAS PARTY
Save the date! Friday December 15th at 6pm.
Your invited to
the Annual Quigley Christmas Party.
More information to come



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month— December 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



Reminder

that the **Convocation Meeting** is on **Tuesday, November 21 at 6 PM** at **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Waretown.**

Carpool will be formed. Fr. Paul can fit 3 people in his car.

TECH THURSDAY

Tech Thursday meets monthly. But will be cancelled in November due to Thanksgiving. Our next meeting will be on December 21st at 12:30pm. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting.



Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will be able assist you.

Thank you, to everyone that filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child.

Barbara Marshall, Chair



A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."



Welcome to St. Stephen's

Now, as we enter the last weeks of the Church Year, the liturgy is focused on the “last things,” and especially the return of Christ as Judge. The Gospel reading is the familiar parable of the wise and foolish maidens. The emphasis here is always to live in readiness for the Lord’s return.

The first reading today is from Amos. The prophet lives in a time when the people of God are very “religious” in carrying out the rites and sacrifices of worship, but are blind to the injustice and inequities in the social and economic life of their nation. The Word of God is that in the Day of Judgment, performance of religious rites will not be enough if there is not also justice and social righteousness in the center of our living as a people.

The second reading continues the First Letter to the Thessalonians. Some in that church, expecting the Lord to return in their lifetimes, have begun to doubt, because some of the members have died. Paul assures these early Christians that those who die before the Lord’s return will nonetheless be saved.

In our eucharistic gathering, we are in a kind of rehearsal for life in the Day of Judgment. We find in our prayer the model for the commitment to ministry and social justice which give heart and soul to our worship; and in Communion we meet the Lord as Judge and as Savior.

Serving in the Liturgy today:

November 12, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	Linda Chiappetta
LEM 8:00 am	Susan Clark, 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, Gerrie Vergona
Altar Guild 10:00am	Valerie Thompson
Ushers 10:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

Thank you

to all our wonderful Stewardship speakers. This week we welcome Canon Phylliss Jones on this Consecration Sunday.
Bill Bodine, Stewardship Chair

Sanctuary Candle

*The Sanctuary Candle is given to
The Glory of God*

This candle burns

*In Loving Memory
of Luitgardis Rotsaert
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

These flowers are placed

*In Loving Memory of
Those who are not here today, but who
are present in our hearts.*

