



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.



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve

Unto us a Child is Born



CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

4 & 7 PM

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
83	Processional Hymn: "O Come All Ye Faithful"	
	Open Acclamation	355
	Opening Sentence	
S280	Gloria	356
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Isaiah 62:6-12	Insert
	Psalms 97	Insert
	Second Lesson: Titus 3:4-7	Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God Speak" (lyrics below)	
	Gospel: Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People (Form III)	381
	Confession and Absolution	360
	The Peace	332
	Announcements	
	Offertory:	
	Doxology: "All things come of Thee, O Lord"	

HOLY COMMUNION

	Eucharistic Prayer "B"	367
S112	Sursum Corda	
S113	Sanctus	
S136	Memorial Acclamation	368
	The Lord's Prayer	364
S152	Breaking of the Bread	
S157	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	"Let Us Break Bread Together"	
79	"Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem"	
110	"The Snow Lay On The Ground"	
111	Post Communion Hymn: "Silent Night"	
	Post Communion Prayer	366
	Blessing	
100	Closing Hymn: "Joy To The World"	
	Dismissal	

Gradual:
 "Alleluia, He is Coming";
 "Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"
 "Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"
 "I looked up and I saw my Lord a coming"
 "I looked up and saw my Lord a coming down the road"
 "Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"
 "Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"

WOMAN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

"The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart", 1ST & 3RD Mondays at 11am for info contact: *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863 (No Bible Study in December)*

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, January 22nd @ 10am.

WHITING GARDEN CLUB

No meeting in January. Happy Holidays!

OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday January 11th after the Healing Service



Christmas Services

Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Services

9am, Fourth Sunday of Advent

3:30pm, Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

4pm, Christmas Eve Eucharist

7pm, Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist with Guitar

Dec 25th - Christmas Day, Feast of the Nativity at 10am

Jan 1st - Feast of the Holy Name, service at 10am

Jan 6th - Epiphany Service at 10am



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

TECH THURSDAY

Tech Thursday meets monthly. Keep an eye out for our new dates to come. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting.

Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will be able assist you.



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

Mark your calendars

On January 14th 2024 we welcome

Bishop Sally French here at St Stephen's Episcopal Church

There will be one service at 9am and a pot luck after.



Collect of the Day

☪ God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light:

Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting....*Amen.*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."



Psalm 97

Dominus regnavit

- 1 The LORD is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For you are the LORD,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.



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 2024 - 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
 Keep an eye out for our next Memorial Service Date.
 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

Daughters of the British Empire

The (DBE) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit American society of women of British or Commonwealth of Nations birth, heritage or ancestry. We share and promote our heritage while supporting local charities and our senior living facilities across the United States.
 To learn more about our local chapter, here in Ocean County, please email *Joan Saunders* – njstateorganizer@gmail.com





Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month– January 11th, 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



Helping Seniors navigate the Medicare arena for 10+ years.



Contact us for info and any questions you may have

106 Union Ave Manasquan, NJ 08736

info@seniormomentsmedicare.com

(732) 528-4580

Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws

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A reading from Paul's first letter to the Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.





Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Christians throughout the world celebrate on this day the birth of our Savior. We welcome people of every race and tongue and faith to this celebration. We invite you to participate fully and to join us in rejoicing at the birth of him who is the fulfillment of the deepest and best hopes of all people and all faiths.

In the birth of Christ, we celebrate more than an idea, more than a philosophical truth. We celebrate that at a specific time and place He through whom all was created came to be part of His own creation and began His life among us as one of us. "In the days of Caesar Augustus...when Quirinius was governor of Syria...in the city of David, which is called Bethlehem."

That which Isaiah in the seventh century B.C. hoped for, came, bringing light to the nations. "Unto us a child is born...his name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Paul, in writing to Titus, reminds him that the coming of Christ into the world calls us to a new life, a life of uprightness and godliness as we prepare for Christ's return.

In story, song, word, and sacrament, we celebrate this coming and answer to God's call to be his People — to return to him who is the source of our life and salvation.



Serving in the Liturgy today:

December 24, 2023

Lector 4:00 pm	<i>Susan Quigley</i>
LEM 4:00 pm	<i>Richard Smithson, Robert Virtue, Valerie Thompson</i>
Altar Guild 4:00 pm	<i>Ann Solaequi</i>
Ushers 4:00 pm	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 7:00 pm	<i>Stefanie Bodine</i>
LEM 7:00 pm	<i>Richard Smithson, Joann Smithson</i>
Altar Guild 7:00 pm	<i>Valerie Thompson, Beverly Larson</i>
Ushers 7:00 pm	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

These flowers are placed

*In Loving Memory of
William Bodine*

by Bill & Stefanie Bodine

*In Loving Memory of
Jaqueline Bodine*

by Bill & Stefanie Bodine

*In Loving Memory of
Pat Larson*

by JoAnn Smithson

*In Loving Memory of
Bill, Hope, Kim & Michelle*

by Dottie Kaster

*In Loving Memory of
Eugene Byrne*

by St Stephens Ministry

Sanctuary Candle

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

This candle burns

*In Loving Memory of
Jaqueline Bodine*

by Bill & Stefanie Bodine

*In Loving Memory of
Eugene Byrne*

by St Stephens Ministry

*In Loving Memory of
William Bodine*

by Bill & Stefanie Bodine

