

**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. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, 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 2021**

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden  
Richard Smithson, Property Warden  
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley  
Pat Russo, Maryann Payne, Dottie Kaster  
Kay Karlick, Tom Larson, Ken Seda  
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.

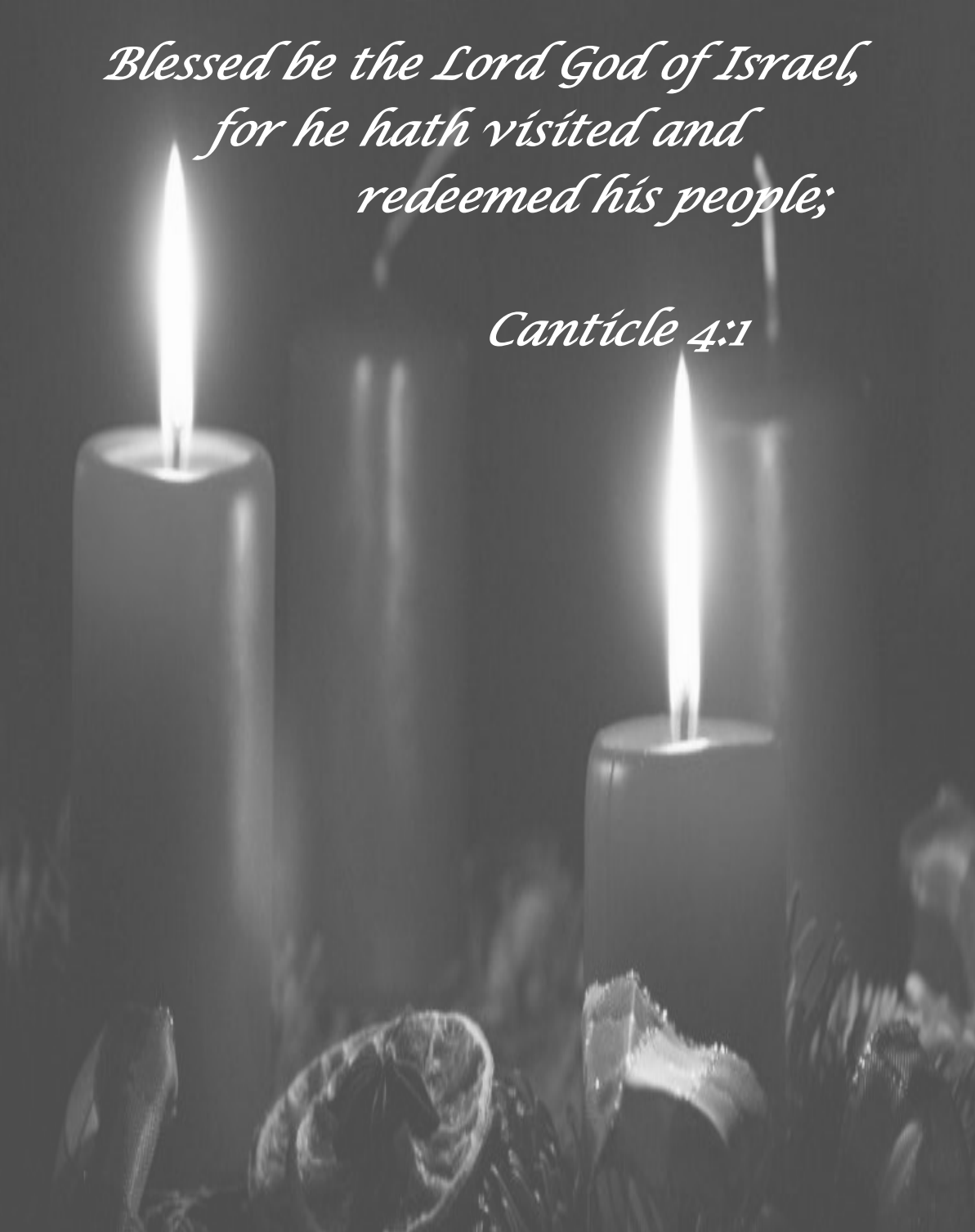
*"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20*

**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.



*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he hath visited and  
redeemed his people;*

*Canticle 4:1*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

DECEMBER 5, 2021  
8am

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
	Open Acclamation	299
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Baruch 5:1-9</i>	Insert
	<i>Canticle 4</i>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <i>Letter to the Philippians 1:3-11</i>	Insert
	Gospel: <i>Luke 3:1-6</i>	Insert
	Sermon — The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.	
	PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE	
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	Doxology: “All things come of thee O Lord”	
	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	
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S113	Sanctus	
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S157	Fraction Anthem	
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	Blessing	
66	Recessional: “Come Thou long expected Jesus”	
	Dismissal	

BIBLE STUDY GROUP-

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am, for info contact Roberta Mackey at (917) 696-6863

CHOIR PRACTICE-

Wednesdays at 10am

HEALING SERVICES-

Thursdays at 10:00 am (No healing services on Dec 30th)

ORDER OF ST. LUKE-

2nd Thursday of each month after Healing Service (December 9th)

ARTS & CRAFTS-

Held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, from 10-12am & 1-3pm

VESTRY MEETING-

Monday, December 27th

WHITING GARDEN CLUB -WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST-

at 10AM in the Parish Hall

CRESTWOOD CHORUS CONCERT -

December 5th at 2pm

ST. STEPHEN’S TREE LIGHTING-

December 9th at 4:00PM (Tree lighting at 4:30)

DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES-

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

If you have any questions, please call Altar Guild Flower Chair, Valerie Thompson, at 732-657-4510.

DO YOU NEED A PLEDGE CARD?

Please see our Treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.



## ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. Each evening at 7PM, join us for Compline on Zoom or You Tube. All are welcome!



COME AND SEE!!!

## ST. STEPHEN'S TREE LIGHTING



At 4:30 pm on Thursday, December 9th, come join us for a special night of Singing and celebration with the Lighting of our Tree this season. Call the Church office for more details at 732-350-2121



## CRESTWOOD CHORUS PROUD TO PRESENT HOLIDAY SINGERS

The Crestwood Chorus presents: Holiday Singers in a Winter Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 2 pm, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church – 180 Route 539 – Whiting, NJ (new venue). There will be refreshments served. There will also be a free will offering.

For further information please contact Bonnie @ 609-709-5780 or AJ @ 732-600-5716.

You may also contact the Parish Office @ 732-350-2121.



## Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021  
8am

### Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### First Reading

*Baruch 5:1-9*

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God, "Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

## Canticle 4

1 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
2 And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
3 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
which have been since the world began:  
4 That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
5 To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
6 To perform the oath which he swore to our forefather Abraham, \*  
that he would give us,  
7 That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
8 In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.  
9 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
10 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
11 Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
12 To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, \*  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, \*  
and will be for ever. Amen



**CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE** ~ sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **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 Summer 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.

**CARE GIVERS VOLUNTEERS** ~ JoAnn Smithson is the Congregational Coordinator for Care Givers Volunteers here at St. Stephen's. Please continue to use the mailbox in the Office to put in your hours. JoAnn's phone number is 609/268-0821.

### **THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD IS IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOU TO SIGN~**

cards and postage cost so much these days--sign your name and write a message to your church family

**help wanted**

**COFFEE HOUR**



A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2022 - 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





## **BLACKJACK NEEDS OUR HELP**

Hi my name is Phyllis, my adopted shelter dog Blackjack is in very much need of dental work. I live solely on social security and need this financial help. He's a dog that gave up on life, I adopted him, I trained him myself, he is now a state certified therapy dog and has his k-9 good citizenship award...he is kind and gentle and has helped many people...thank you for your help...God Bless You...

Please visit the link provided below to support a good cause and help Blackjack with his much needed dental work. There is a basket on the back table in the church for your cash donation. Phyllis appreciates your help-- and so does Blackjack!

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-blackjack-with-dental-work/share?qid=c112c9>

Sincerely,

*Miss Phyllis*

## **YOUR PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING**

Prayerfully consider making an endowment gift to St. Stephen's as part of your estate plan.

## **RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Thank you to all who have donated. There are parishioners as well as other members in our community who benefit greatly from this valued fund. If you wish to contribute, please use the basket on the back table for donations



### **Order of Saint Luke**

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month-- December 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  
The Arbors        2nd Monday of each month   at 2:00 pm  
The Pines           3rd Monday of each month   at 2:00 pm



## **Second Reading**

*Letter to the Philippians 1:3-11*

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel thus about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

## **Holy Gospel**

*Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiber'i-us Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturae'a and Trachoni'tis, and Lysa'ni-as tetrarch of Abile'ne, in the high-priesthood of Annas and Ca'iaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechari'ah in the wilderness; and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

## Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Today is the first of the two Advent Sundays on which John the Baptist is the central figure. This dynamic prophet marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He announced the time of Messiah's arrival and called the people of Israel to repentance in preparation for that coming. The Gospels see him as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of one who will prepare the way for God to come to the peoples of the earth.

The writer of Baruch, one of the books accounted as the Apocrypha by Anglicans, is presented as addressing the Jewish exiles in Babylon with words probably borrowed from Isaiah. God's people are called to look forward to the coming of God with joy and gladness, for when he comes God will lead all the peoples to our true home.

The second reading is from Paul's letter to the Philippians. In greeting this congregation, Paul speaks of his affection for them and of his imprisonment. He urges them to continue in faith as they await the day of Christ's return.

The Old Testament and John the Baptist looked toward the coming of the Messiah in history to establish God's Kingdom. The New Testament looks toward the return of Christ at the end of history to bring that Kingdom to fulfillment. We, the Church, gather in Eucharist in the "inbetween times" to celebrate the foretaste of that Kingdom and to be equipped by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Kingdom to the world.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.*

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 5, 2021

### Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	Greta Pearl
LEM 8:00 am	Stefanie Bodine
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Debbie Fisher, Linda Chiappetta
Ushers 8:00 am	Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:15 am	Valerie Thompson
LEM 10:15 am	Susan Clarke
Altar Guild 10:15 am	Ann Solaequi, Beverly Larson
Ushers 10:15 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

### Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is given to

The Glory of God

**In Honor of**

Loved ones and Baby Jesus's birthday on  
Christmas Day by *Stefanie Bodine*

### Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are given to the

Glory of God

**In Honor of**

*Claire Wolpert's Birthday,*  
From her sister *Stefani Bodine*

