

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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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 2023

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden
Peter Quigley, Property Warden
Shelagh Bluni, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano
Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue
Bill Bodine, Barbara Marshal, Kay Karlick
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.



	<i>The Word of God</i>	<i>BCP</i>
	The Service begins — all seated — in silence	
	Collect of the Day	<i>Insert</i>
	First Lesson: <i>Isaiah 58:1-12</i> <i>Psalms 103</i>	<i>Insert</i> <i>Lenten Booklet</i>
	Second Lesson: <i>Second Letter to the Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</i>	<i>Insert</i>
	Gradual Verse	<i>Lenten Booklet</i>
	Holy Gospel: <i>Mathew 6:1-6, 16-21</i>	<i>Insert</i>
	Sermon - <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
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BIBLE STUDY GROUP

“OSL, WILL BE JOINING OUR STUDY ON MARCH 9th”

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am-12:30pm
for info contact : *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863*

CHOIR PRACTICE

10am every Wednesday. Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs.

HEALING SERVICES

Thursdays at 10:00 am

OSL WILL BE JOINING THE, “WOMANS BIBLE STUDY”

2nd Thursday of each month , March 9th - after Healing Service

AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE

There is another course scheduled for **Tuesday March 21, from 9-1pm** in the Parish Hall here at St. Stephen’s Church. Call Stefanie Bodine for more info at (732) 350-2904

CORNED BEEF DINNER

Saturday March 11th from 4-6pm doors open at 3:30 tickets are \$20 each limited to 50 people

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, March 13th @10 AM

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, February 27th @ 10am

ASH WEDNESDAY February 22nd

Service are at 10am 4pm and 7pm

Service at Aristacare at 12pm, “Ashes to Go” at the three local shopping centers between the two services, The Pines at 2pm

COME ATTEND ONE OF OUR EVENTS

Visit our website at;

<https://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org/new-events>

for more information on upcoming event in and around our community.

ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. Compline is now on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** at 7PM on **YouTube** and **Zoom**. All are welcome! COME AND SEE!!!

Memorial Garden For Pets

at

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

For all who are looking for a special place to lay your beloved pets to rest.

Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am–2pm for services and more information.

(732) 350-2121

A Legacy Summit For Estate & Will Planning

Please join us for a day of will & estate planning for your final expenses on Saturday April 29th from 10am-2pm!

Next public relations team meeting

Sunday March 12th.

Next Stewardship Meeting

Sunday, March 5th and 19th, after our regular 10 am scheduled services.

We'll meet 2x in April after Easter.

See Bill Bodine for info and any questions you may have

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.**

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever... *Amen.*

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

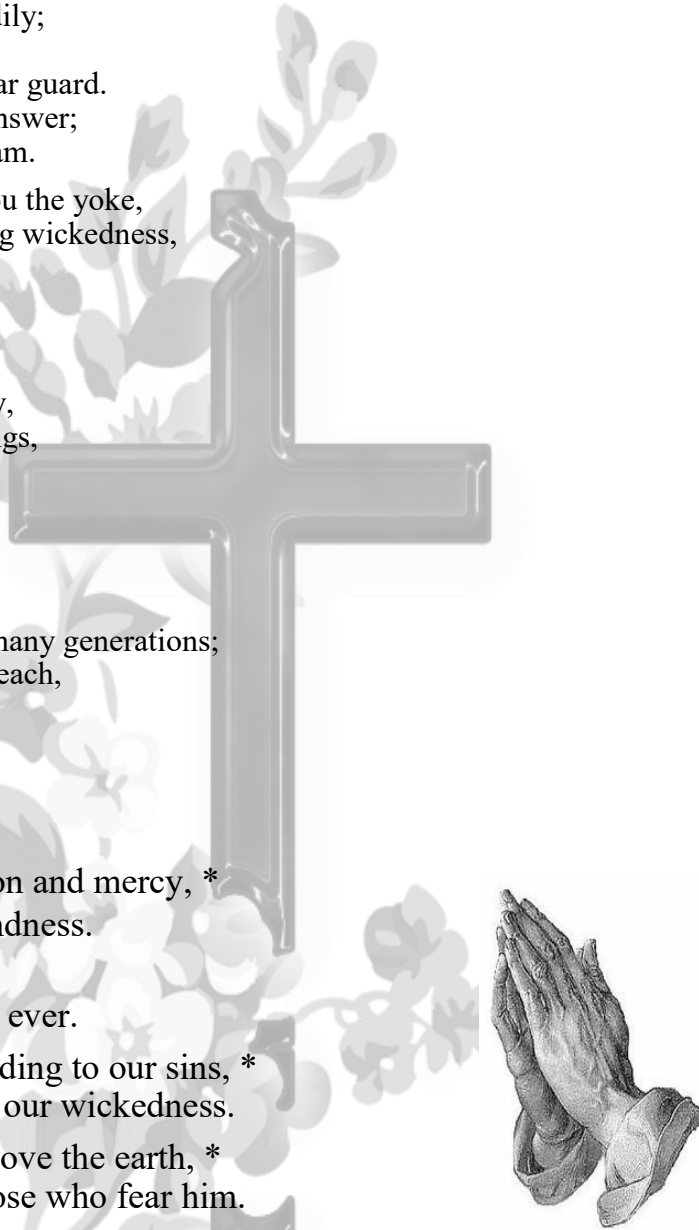
“Cry aloud, spare not,
lift up your voice like a trumpet;
declare to my people their transgression,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet they seek me daily,
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that did righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.
‘Why have we fasted, and thou seest it not?
Why have we humbled ourselves, and thou takest no knowledge of it?’
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.
Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with wicked fist.
Fasting like yours this day
will not make your voice to be heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day for a man to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a rush,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?
Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the LORD?
“Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, Here I am.

“If you take away from the midst of you the yoke,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,
if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.
And the LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your desire with good things,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters fail not.
And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
You shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

Psalm 103:8-14

8. **T**he LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9. He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
10. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
11. For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
12. As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
13. As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
14. For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.



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 ~ 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

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

PRAYER SERVICE on Saturday February 25th FROM 10:45- 12PM

Looking for volunteers to pray with us. Please sign-up in the Narthex



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--March 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



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Begins on Thursday February 23rd after the Healing Service

Please sign-up in the Narthex.

COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.”

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

“Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.



On this first day of Lent, today the Liturgy presents a challenge to Christian people. It confronts us with the radical change in living which is the Way of Christ. We are faced with sin and salvation as alternative directions for our lives: sin as separation from God, from others, from our selves and from the natural world; salvation as reconciliation with God, others, our selves, and the natural world.

The Liturgy on Ash Wednesday is reduced to its primary elements of Word and Sacrament. We are called to consider our mortality and in that context our sin and our absolute dependence upon God for salvation and for life. We may be tempted to limit our concerns to our sins and our mortality, letting the ashes be the most important thing in our worship today. But we use the ashes simply as the starting point for that which is far deeper and ultimately more important: salvation. The ashes, the penitence, the fasting: all of these are but means toward the goal of Ash Wednesday, of Lent, indeed, of all Christian living; namely, repentance, new life, and ministry to others. "Be reconciled to God..." Paul tells us.

Repentance, says the prophet Joel, opens us to the discovery of God's love and mercy. Make your prayer, fasting, and ministry the mark of an inner and fundamental way of living day in and day out, the Lord says. "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return," is turned around into, "you shall have life, and you shall have it abundantly."

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 10:00 am	<i>Kay Karlick</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Bill Bodine, Bob Virtue, Gerrie Vergona</i>
Altar Guild 10:00 am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>
Lector 4:00 pm	<i>Valarie Thompson</i>
LEM 4:00 pm	<i>Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine, Stefanie Bodine</i>
Altar Guild 4:00 pm	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 4:00 pm	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>
Lector 7:00 pm	<i>JoAnn Smithson</i>
LEM 7:00 pm	<i>Richard Smithson, JoAnn Smithson, Susan Clarke</i>
Altar Guild 7:00 pm	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 7:00 pm	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

Sanctuary Candle

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

*In Memory of
Virginia Hoyt, by the Woods Family*



Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
Virginia Hoyt, by the Woods Family*

