

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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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.

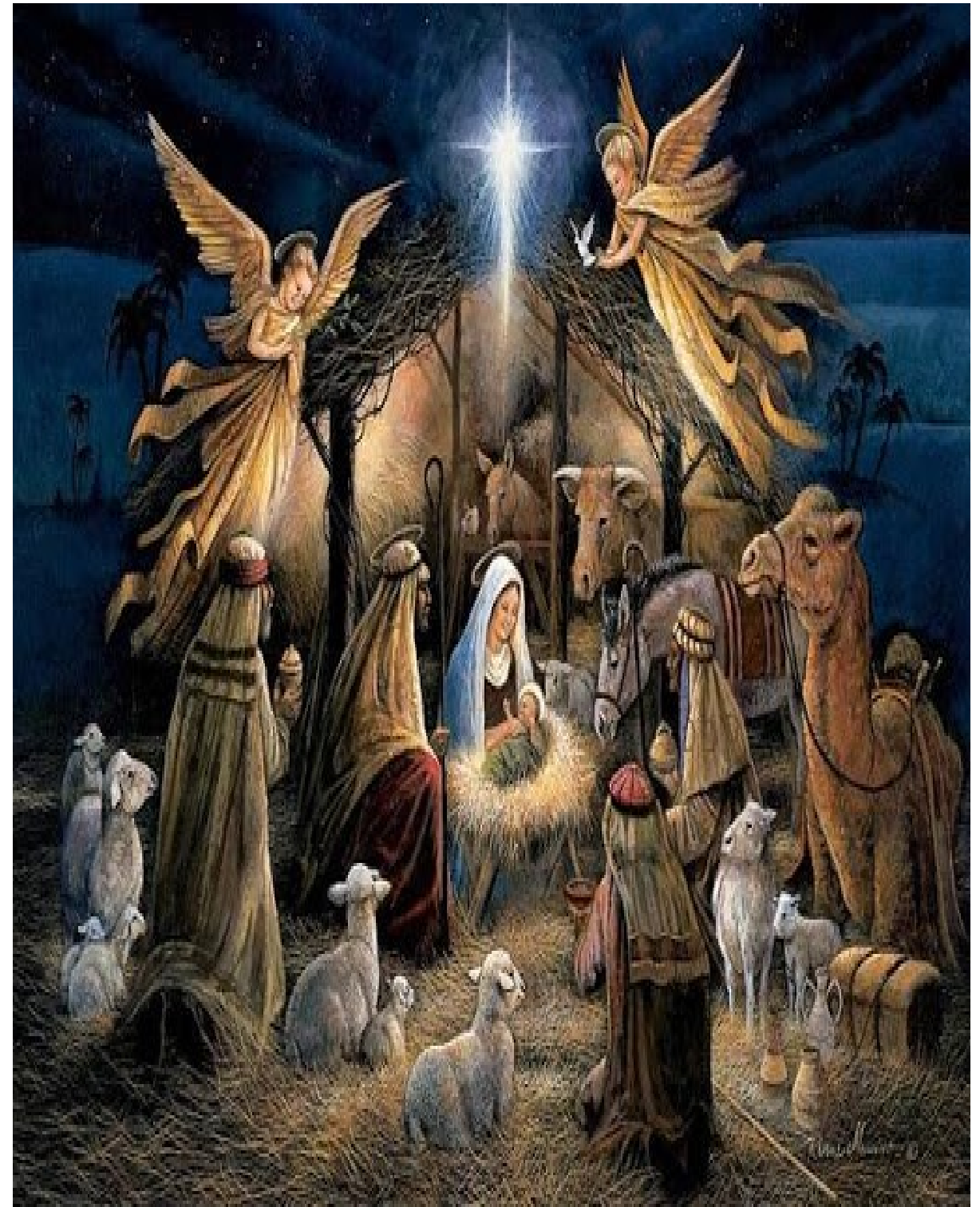
"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20

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.



CHRISTMAS DAY

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

**DECEMBER 25, 2021
10:00 AM**

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
87	Processional Hymn: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"	
	Open Acclamation	355
	Opening Sentence	
S280	Gloria	356
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	Insert
	Psalm 96	Insert
	Second Lesson: <i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God Speak" (lyrics on next page)	
	Gospel: Luke 2:1-14(15-20)	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
	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"	
101	"Away In A Manger"	
81	"Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming"	
	Post Communion Prayer	366
91	"While Shepherds watched their flocks"	
	Announcements	
	Blessing	
100	Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World"	
	Dismissal	

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

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 SERVECES-

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

ORDER OF ST. LUKE-

2nd Thursday of each month after Healing Service

VESTRY MEETING-

Monday, December 27th

WHITING GARDEN CLUB -

Whiting Garden Club meets next on February 2 at 10AM in the Parish Hall

DO YOU NEED A PLEDGE CARD?

Please see our Treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services;

Dec 24th – At 4pm, 7pm & 9pm / **Dec 25th** - At 10am



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!!!



ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 30, 2022 - 1 service at 9AM Meeting follows
Still needed - 2 delegates to Convention, and 1 Vestry Member -- See Stefanie if you are willing to serve or have any questions



Christmas Prayer

Child of Bethlehem—house of bread;
Man of Jerusalem—city of peace;
you have loved us
without limit or condition;
in our greatness and in our misery,
in our folly and in our virtue;
may your hand be always upon us
and may your heart be within us,
so that we too may become
bread and peace for one another.

Merry Christmas Prayers

Christmas Day

*December 25, 2021
10:00 AM*

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*

First Reading

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace

Isaiah 9:2-7

for the throne of David and his
kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteous-
ness
from this time onward and
forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will
do this.

Word of God speak;

Would 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

Psalm 96

Cantate Domino

- 1 Sing 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 **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

COFFEE HOUR



help wanted

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--January 13th, 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

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

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. Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus. 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 the one who is the fulfillment of the deepest and best hopes of all people and all faiths.

Luke describes Jesus' birth with the song of angels and the shepherds who were the first to learn of that birth and the first to come to see the infant. In those days shepherds were a despised group rejected by most people. Luke's inclusion of them in the story stresses that God has come for all people, high and low, rich and poor.

Centuries earlier, Isaiah had foreseen the coming of the Messiah as the establishment of God's reign. This event would summon all people into God's Kingdom and make of them "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord." Paul, writing to Titus, tells us that in the water of baptism we too have been made part of that people and given eternal life. In story, song, word, and sacrament we celebrate the coming of God into the world and renew our own place in the story of God's salvation of all of humanity.

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

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CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2021

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 10:00 am

Bill Bodine

LEM 10:00 am

Stefanie Bodine

Altar Guild 10:00 am

Debbie Fisher, Linda Chiappetta

Ushers 10:00 am

Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine



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 Memory of

Kathleen Molnar

From her mother, Ruth Molnar
(misplaced, from the 19th of Dec)

