

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.

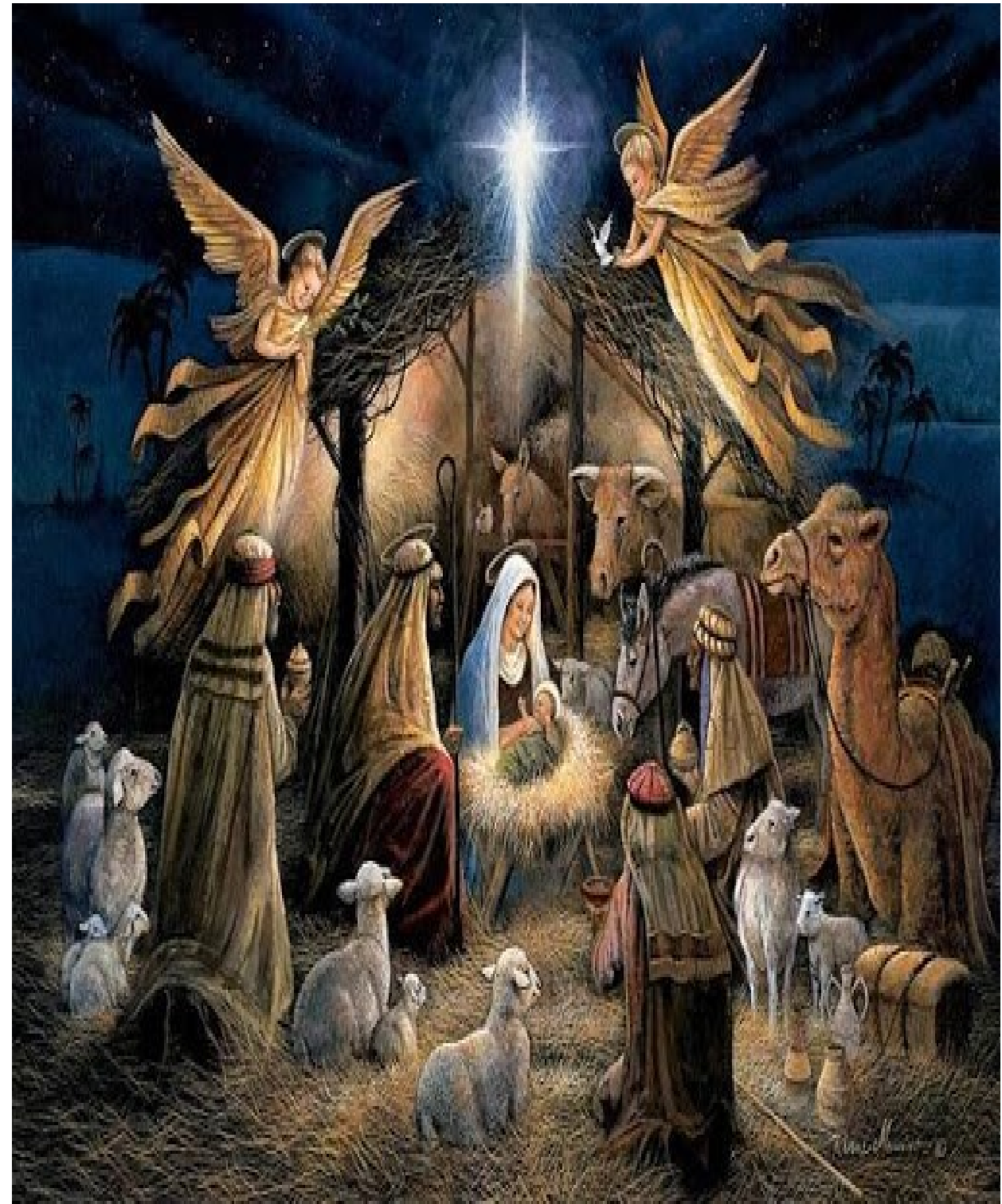
"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20

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 EVE

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

**DECEMBER 24, 2021
4, 7 & 9 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
	Psalm 97	Insert
	Second Lesson: Titus 3:4-7	Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God Speak" (lyrics on next page)	
	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
	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
	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 Eve

*December 24, 2021
4, 7 & 9 PM*

Collect of the Day

O 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.*

First Reading

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;

Isaiah 62:6-12

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."

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 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 **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 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.

Holy Gospel

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.

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

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CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2021



Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 4:00 pm	<i>Bill Bodine</i>
LEM 4:00 pm	<i>Stefanie Bodine</i>
Altar Guild 4:00 pm	<i>Debbie Fisher, Linda Chiappetta</i>
Ushers 4:00 pm	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 7:00 pm	<i>JoAnn Smithson</i>
LEM 7:00 pm	<i>Richard Smithson</i>
Altar Guild 7:00 pm	<i>Ann Solaequi, Beverly Larson</i>
Ushers 7:00 pm	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>
Lector 9:00 pm	<i>Valerie Thompson</i>
LEM 9:00 pm	<i>Robert Virtue</i>
Altar Guild 9:00 pm	<i>Ann Solaequi</i>

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)

