

## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759

Phone: 732-350-2121, Fax: 732-350-6000

ssechurch@gmail.com

www.ststephenswhitingnj.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 –email: pvasant@gmail.com

Gerianne Murphy Treasurer—email: ssechurch.treasurer@gmail.com

Sandra Gaskill, Assistant Treasurer —email: ssechuch.assisttr.com

Esther Graham, Music Minister

Colleen Clover, Parish Administrator—email: ssechurch@gmail.com

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

### Wardens and Vestry 2020

Stefanie Rotsaert, Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

Lillian Fink, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley

Pat Russo, Randy Walton, Dottie Kaster

Bill Bodine, Tom Larson, Sam Mauro

Jo Ann 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.

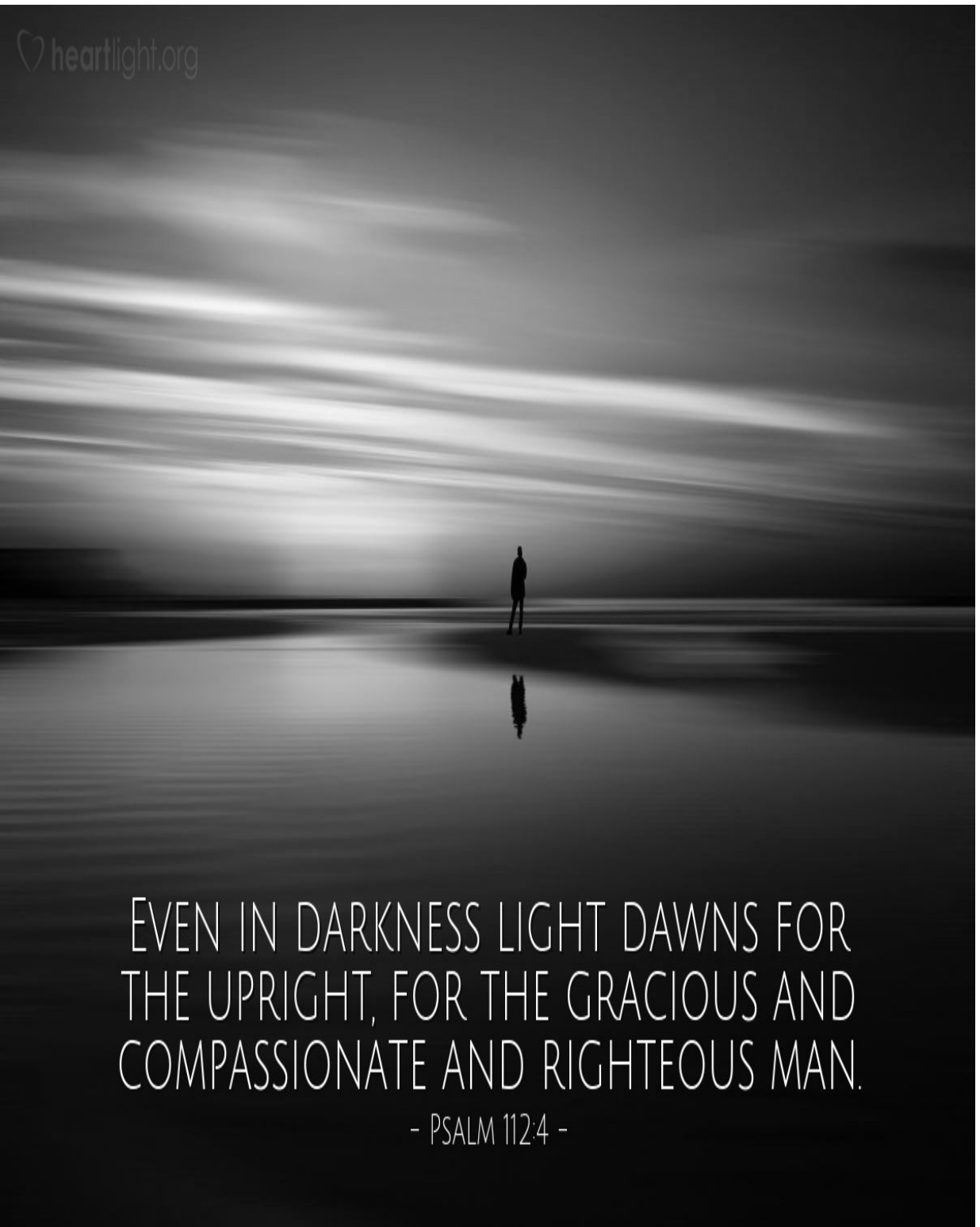
### To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.

**Greta Pearl for prayer requests: 732-350-7584**

Please notify the church office 732/350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations.

If it is an emergency you may also reach Carl Laursen, Rector's Warden at 732-350-1259 or

Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



EVEN IN DARKNESS LIGHT DAWNS FOR  
THE UPRIGHT, FOR THE GRACIOUS AND  
COMPASSIONATE AND RIGHTEOUS MAN.

- PSALM 112:4 -

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
**HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**  
**Hymnal**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2020**

**The Word of God**

Processional: <i>"I Love to Tell the Story"</i>	Insert
Patriotic Hymn: 714 v 4	
Opening Acclamation	355
S102 Trisagion	
Collect of the Day	Insert
First Lesson: <b>Book of Isaiah 58:1-12</b>	Insert
<b>Psalm 112</b>	Insert
Second Lesson: <b>First Letter to the Corinthians 2:1-16</b>	Insert
Gradual: <i>"Word of God, Speak"</i>	Insert
Gospel: <b>Matthew 5:13-20</b>	Insert
Sermon — The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.	
The Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People form VI	392
Confession and Absolution	393
The Peace	360
Announcements	
Doxology: <i>"All things come of thee O Lord"</i>	
<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	
<b>The Great Thanksgiving</b>	
Eucharistic Prayer B	367
S120 Sursum Corda	
S125 Sanctus	
S152 Breaking of the Bread	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Communion Hymns:	
<i>"My Jesus I Love Thee"</i>	Insert
<i>"Our God Reigns"</i>	Insert
Post Communion Hymn <i>"Holy Holy Holy"</i>	Insert
Post Communion Prayer	
Blessing	
Recessional: <i>"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"</i>	Insert
Dismissal	

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2020**

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 AM	Sherene De Lucia
LEM 8:00 AM	Richard Smithson
Altar Guild 8:00 AM	Mary Storey, Betty Carino, Debbie Fisher
Ushers 8:00 AM	Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine, Peter Quigley
Lector 10:00 AM	Valerie Thompson
LEMs 10:00 AM	Richard Woods, Lillian Fink
Altar Guild 10:00 AM	Barbara Lavinio, Margaret Poper
Ushers 10:00 AM	Joe Orsita, Laura Gural

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF

February 9, 2020-February 15, 2020

Today	Holy Eucharist	9:00am
	AA Meeting	8:00 pm
Monday	Office Open	9:00 am—2:00 pm
Tuesday	Closed AA Meeting	2:00 pm
Wednesday	Closed AA Meeting	3:00 pm
	<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
Thursday	Healing Service	10:00 am
	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>12 noon &amp; 5 pm</b>
Friday	Pineland Symphonic Band	9:30 am
Saturday	AA Meeting	8:00 pm

**Everyone is welcome to come to the coffee hour after worship**  
 All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion at our Lord's Table, regardless of your church affiliation. We encourage you to share with us in this sacrament.



**Upcoming Events to look forward to and sign up for!**

- Super 50/50 drawing— March 31, 2020
- Dollar Auction—April 4, 2020

***We need items donated for the Dollar Auction!***

New “wow” items that will drive interest and bids. (No used items, please.) Bring your donations to the church on Sunday or during office business hour. If you want to donate items but can't get here, call Beverly or Tom and they will be happy to come to you.

The Dollar Auction brings LOTS of fun to our church! Free admission and free lunch! Don't forget to bring your dollars!

***Saint Stephens***  
***INDOOR FLEA MARKET***

***Saturday, April 25th***

***9 am-1 pm***

Are you doing some spring cleaning? Our indoor flea market gives us a good chance to sell those odds and ends and *white elephants* we find cluttering our home. Tables are available for 10.00

To reserve a table call JoAnn Smithson

@ 732-408-5351

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**February 9, 2020**

***Collect of the Day***

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

***First Reading***

***Book of 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.

***A couple of reminders.....***

- ***Boy Scout Sunday is TODAY! Troop #350 and Den #50 will join us to celebrate and tell us about their “God and Country” merit badges.***
- ***Pick up your 2020 collection envelopes for your convenience***
- ***Check out our new activities calendar and mark your calendars for 2020***
- ***Stefanie has tickets on sale for both Teas: April 16th and May 21st.***
- ***Come to Bible Study on Thursdays: Noon and 5 PM***
- ***Boy Scout Troop 350 1st Annual Spring Craft and Vendor Fair coming to Saint Stephens March 28th from 9 am—1pm***



## Psalm 112

- 1 Hallelujah!  
Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!
- 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.
- 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- 6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- 7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.
- 8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- 9 They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.
- 10 The wicked will see it and be angry;  
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \*  
the desires of the wicked will perish.



Mark your  
calendar



COME JOIN OUR  
**BIBLE**  
Study

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

HEALING SERVICE Thursday 10:00 am  
ORDER OF ST. LUKE: 2nd Thursday of each month after Healing Service  
PINELAND SYMPHONIC BAND rehearsal: Fridays 9:30 am  
**CHOIR PRACTICE: Now on Wednesdays at 10 AM**

**CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE** sells well to groups and meeting at our church. Now accepting **LADIES Spring/Summer 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. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

**LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED** There is an **URGENT** call out for Lay Eucharistic Ministers for both our 8:00 and 10:00a.m. services.

**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 732-408-5351.

A six-week bible study has begun and will continue on each Thursday beginning at noon and again at 5 p.m.  
We will be studying "The Names of Jesus"  
Looking forward to Lent, we will study "Women of the Bible."

**HEALING PRAYERS** The Order of St. Luke provides prayers of healing to anyone after Holy Communion on the last Sunday of the month at each service. Members are also available every Sunday after the services. Look for a member near the baptismal font if you would like a prayer of healing after any service.

**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 .

---

### **STEWARDSHIP**

*“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, press down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you”*

**Luke 6:38**



### **Way of Saint Paul**

In this letter, Paul says to all his readers, and to you, too:

**“Fill your visions with Jesus Christ. Take time, make time, to consider who He is and to remember what He has done for you.”**

Your Friend in Christ,

Lillian Fink



### ***Second Reading***

***First Letter to the Corinthians 2:1-16***

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glorification. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him," God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit. The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

### ***Holy Gospel***

***Matthew 5:13-20***

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

## Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Today and for the next several Sundays, we hear portions of Jesus' teaching from the Sermon on the Mount. This continues the theme of Epiphany, the showing forth of Jesus as the Son of God. Note also that the way of living which he teaches enables those who follow his teaching to themselves be "epiphanies" of God's presence in the world.

Isaiah warns us that living rightly does not depend on carrying out religious devotions such as fasting. He is speaking in a time when the people were careful to fast but ignored God's call to live at peace with each other and to care for the poor and helpless. Religious devotions that are merely outward show do not enable us to be right with God.

In seeking to speak to the divisions in the Corinthian church, Paul takes on those who are proud of having special and private knowledge about God, believing their "wisdom" sets them apart from other church members. However, Paul announces that God's wisdom is far greater than human wisdom and that God's wisdom is "Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

Jesus' Epiphany is fulfilled in our own time in Word and Sacraments and in the lives of those who through baptism have been made part of his body the church. In the liturgy, our part in making Jesus known to all people is initiated in the Eucharistic feast and fulfilled as we are sent into the world in his name to care for the helpless and to be instruments of God's peace and reconciliation.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.  
Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

## Announcements

February 9, 2020

### 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.

*The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God  
Sans memorial*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
In honor of our sons-in-law  
Alyn Heim & Michael Rutigliano  
In celebration of their shared birthday  
On February 14th  
By Fred & Janet Spieth*

### ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month at 9:30 am
Arista-Care	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