

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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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 Stefanie Rotsaert, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or

Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



"IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD..."

MATTHEW 4:1-11

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
Hymnal**

The Word of God

MARCH 1, 2020

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	Second Lesson: <i>Letter to the Romans 5:12-19</i>	Insert
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First Sunday in Lent

MARCH 1, 2020

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 AM	Dottie Strohm
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	Bernice Neuman
LEMs 10:00 AM	Susan Clarke, Lillian Fink
Altar Guild 10:00 AM	Carol Cavanaugh, June Coles
Ushers 10:00 AM	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF

March 1, 2020 - March 7, 2020

Today	Holy Eucharist	8:00 am & 10:00 am
	AA Meeting	8:00 pm
Monday	Office Open	9:00 am—2:00 pm
Tuesday	Closed AA Meeting	2:00 pm 2:00 pm
Wednesday	Closed AA Meeting	3:00 pm
	Choir Practice	10:00 am
Thursday	Healing Service	10:00 am
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.



Men's Club Annual Corned Beef Dinner

March 14, 2020 at 3 p.m. The cost is
\$15.00 per person

Tickets are on sale at the office and
after service each Sunday.

World Day of Prayer Service

Friday, March 6, 2020 @ 1 PM

At Saint Stephens Episcopal Church
located at 180 Route 539 Whiting.

Refreshments will be served.

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

First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Book of Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

A couple of reminders.....

- **Pick up your 2019 giving statements**
- **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 Tuesday, March 3rd at Noon and again at 5:00 for Soup & Study. Our topic will be "Women of the Bible"**
- **Get your own Liturgical calendar for \$3.00. This calendar is a Church Year Guide with Eucharistic readings for the year at your fingertips.**
- **Purchase a Super 50/50 Tickets. Drawing is March 31, 2020**



Psalm 32

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.



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.

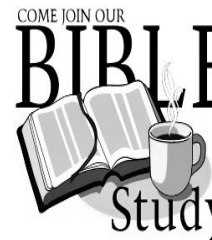
LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED There is an UR - GENT call out for Lay Eucharistic Ministers for both our 8:00 and 10:00a.m. services.



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.



COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE The next six-week bible study series will begin Tuesday, March 3rd. The topic will be "*Women of the Bible.*" We will meet Tuesdays at noon and again at 5:00 pm for Soup and Study. Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to attend so we have an idea how much soup we will need.

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

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Acts 20:35

Bible Study
We will be studying
"Women of the Bible"
Beginning Tuesday, March 3
At Noon and again at 5 PM which is
for
Soup and Study
Please sign up in the
Narthex if you would
like to join us for this
6 week series.



EASTER FLOWER DEADLINE!

Remember: The deadline for Easter Flower offerings is Sunday, March 29, 2020,.

Easter Sunday is April 12 this year. This is a time when we especially want to remember our loved ones and friends , or express thanksgiving for someone's kindness and love.

For questions, please contact
Val Thompson @

(732) 657-4510



The Fellowship & Fundraising Committee invite everyone to purchase their tickets for the Super 50/50 draw taking place March 31st.
Tickets are 10.00 per chance.

And

We are collecting NEW items for the Dollar Auction for
April 4th at noon.
For information and questions
Please contact Beverly or Tom Larson
at
(732) 849-6256



Second Reading

Letter to the Romans 5:12-19

Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned-- sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the effect of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will give his angels charge of you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

On this first Lenten Sunday, the Old Testament reading is the account of the creation of the human race and its fall, through disobedience, from communion with God.

Our choices determine who we are and our relationship to God and to others. As the first humans chose to be independent from God, Jesus in his temptations chose faithfulness. The story of the Temptation is the story of Jesus beginning to turn humanity around from disobedience to faithfulness. Each of the temptations was one that the Israelites failed during their Exodus journey.

In the passage from Romans, Paul expands on this. Jesus is the new humanity. Through his death and resurrection, he has opened the way for us, in baptism, to be made part of that new humanity rather than remaining in the state of the old.

In some congregations, those who have been called by God to baptism at Easter will be enrolled as baptismal candidates today. In those congregations, the candidates will be the center of parish life during Lent. However, even in parishes with no baptismal candidates, our focus on each

On this first Lenten Sunday, the Old Testament reading is the account of the creation of the human race and its fall, through disobedience, from communion with God.

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

March 1, 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
In Memory of George P. Frey, IV by his mother Joy*

And

*In Memory of Fr. John Dewland
By his daughter Joy Frey*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
Sans Memorial*

ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m.
Arista-Care	1st Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
The Arbors	2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
The Pines	3rd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
Crestwood Manor	4th Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m.