

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 —email: pvansant@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.

Behold,

I SEND MY MESSENGER,
AND HE WILL PREPARE
THE WAY BEFORE ME.

MALACHI 3:1

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
Hymnal

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

The Word of God

517	Processional: <i>“How lovely is thy Dwelling Place”</i>	
	Patriotic Hymn: 714 v 4	
	Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion	
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Book of Malachi 3:1-4</i>	Insert
	<i>Psalms 84</i>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <i>Letter to the Hebrews 2:14-18</i>	Insert
	Gradual: <i>“Word of God, Speak”</i>	Insert
	Gospel: <i>Luke 2:22-40</i>	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>	
	HOLY COMMUNION	
	The Great Thanksgiving	
	Eucharistic Prayer B	367
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S152	Breaking of the Bread	
	The Lord’s Prayer	364
	Communion Hymns:	
277	<i>“Sing of Mary”</i>	
497	<i>“How Bright Appears the Morning Star”</i>	
324	Post Communion Hymn <i>“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	
	Blessing	
436	Recessional: <i>“Lift up your Heads”</i>	
	Dismissal	

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 AM	Mary Storey
LEM 8:00 AM	Stefanie Rotsaert
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	Sam Mauro
LEMs 10:00 AM	Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine
Altar Guild 10:00 AM	Valerie Thompson, Ann Solaequi
Ushers 10:00 AM	Al Thompson, Tom Larson

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF

February 2, 2020-February 8, 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
	<i>Choir Practice</i>	<i>10:00 am</i>
Thursday	Healing Service	10:00 am
	<i>Bible Study</i>	<i>12 noon & 5 pm</i>
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
- Opening Day at the Blue Claws—April 16, 2020 Details will follow!



**50/50
DRAW**

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

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 2, 2020

Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Book of Malachi 3:1-4

"Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

A couple of reminders.....

- ***Boy Scout Sunday will be February 9, 2020***
- ***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 1 Annual Spring Craft and Vendor Fair coming to Saint Stephens March 28th from 9 am—1pm***



Psalm 84

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!



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 Fall/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.

We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.



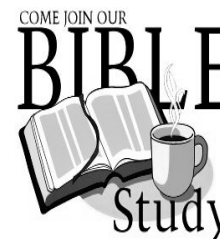
LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED There is an **URGENT** call out for Lay Eucharistic Ministers for both our 8:00 and 10:00a.m. services.



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.

Second Reading

Letter to the Hebrews 2:14-18

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phan'u-el, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Saint Stephen's Memorials

STEWARDSHIP

*"Whoever gives to the poor
will not want, but he who
hides his eyes will get many a
curse"*

Proverbs 28:27

A memorial gift has been given in
memory of

Frances Barton
by
Sandy Gaskill

And

Memorial gifts are also given
In memory of

Glenda Gale Roedell

By

Kristene Eller

Angela Adams

And Marie & Greg Sokol



Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Today the Church celebrates our Lord's presentation to God on the fortieth day after his birth in obedience to the Jewish Law. This is a moment of manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah when Old and New Testament come together in the testimony of the aged priest Simeon and the prophet Anna. The words of Simeon are a regular feature of the Church's evening liturgies.

The first reading from Malachi reflects the hope of the prophets for the coming of the Messiah and the inauguration of God's reign over all the earth.

The second reading is from Hebrews. The writer explains that Jesus' work as Savior is made possible because he is God incarnate, fully human and fully divine. God saved the human race not from the outside but by entering into the world and becoming human and, having taken humanity into the divine life, redeemed the human race.

We return today to the joy of Christmas and in our liturgy we witness to the presence of God in the world coming to us in Bread and Wine and coming to the world through us, the Body of Christ.

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

February 2, 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 Memory of Elizabeth Gaskill

By her daughter Sandy

And

In memory of Charlotte Brown on our 64th wedding anniversary

By her husband, Jack

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