

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759
Phone: 732-350-2121, Fax: 732-350-6000
ssechurch@gmail.com
www.saintstephenswhiting.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
Gerrie Vergona, Treasurer
Esther Graham, Music Director
Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator
Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Wardens and Vestry 2022

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden
Peter Quigley, Property Warden
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano
Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue
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.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Hymnal

The Word of God

488	Processional Hymn: "Be thou my vision"	
	Open Acclamation	355
	Opening Sentence	
S280	Gloria!	356
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Isaiah 58:1-9a, 9b-12</i>	Insert
	Psalm 112	Insert
	Second Lesson: <i>1 Corinthians 2:1-12, 13-16</i>	Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God Speak" (lyrics below)	
	Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People (Form III)	387
	Confession and Absolution	359
	The Peace	360
	Offertory:	
	Doxology: "All things come of Thee, O Lord"	

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

	Eucharistic Prayer "B"	367
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S136	Memorial Acclamation	368
	The Lord's Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	364
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	"Let Us Break Bread Together"	
690	"Guide me, O thou great Jehovah"	
691	"My faith looks up to Thee"	
	Post Communion Prayer	366
	Announcements	
	Blessing	
683	Closing Hymn: "O for a closer walk with Thee"	
	Dismissal	

FEBRUARY 05, 2023

8 & 10 am

BCP

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

"The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart", Mondays at 11am-12:30pm for info contact : *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863*

CHOIR PRACTICE

10am every Wednesday. Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs.

HEALING SERVICES

Thursdays at 10:00 am

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

2nd Thursday of each month, February 9th - after Healing Service

AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE

Tuesday, February 7th @ 9am - In the Parish Hall here at St. Stephen's Church. Call Stefanie Bodine for more info at 732-278-4846

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, February 13th @10 AM

VALENTINE'S DAY

Tuesday, February 14th from 3-6 pm. \$15 per person or \$25 per couple for dinner, treasure auction, and a night of Fun. B.Y.O.B. or enjoy non-alcoholic beverages provided. For Tickets, contact Barbara Marshall at 732-778-2628

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 21st @ 4-6pm. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, (NO CHARGE)

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, February 27th @ 10am

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Public relations will meet next Sunday February 12th, after service in the Parish Hall.

*Word of God speak
 Won't 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
 word of God speak*

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!!!

Memorial Garden For Pets

at

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

For all who are looking for a special place to lay your beloved pets to rest.

Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am–2pm for services and more information.

(732) 350-2121

COME ATTEND ONE OF OUR EVENTS

Visit our website at;

<https://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org/new-events>

for more information on upcoming event in and around our community.

A Legacy Summit For Estate & Will Planning

Please join us for a day of will & estate planning for your final expenses on Saturday April 29th from 10am-2pm!

Stewardship Meeting

Today, Sunday February 5th, after our regular 10 am scheduled services

See Bill Bodine for info and any questions you may have

Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws

Days and Hours of Operation are:

Tuesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

Wednesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws is made up of members of the **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** community and other volunteers who assist in maintaining our pantry, provide food for the sick, the hungry and the needy. The food pantry is here to help those who have minimal funds to work with and come to us when they have a specific need for food.

The **Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws** through very generous donations is also able to provide pet food for dogs and cats. For further information please call: **Jim Jados, Director, Food Pantry at (732) 408-5948.**

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

Isaiah 58:1-9a, 9b-12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?”

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
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 them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator 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 for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

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 live in.

Psalm 112:1-9, 10

Beatus vir

1 **H**allelujah!

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.



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 ~ Caregivers volunteers, is a faith base organization that offer assistance to the elderly. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Caregivers at 732-505-2273 Ext 213

COFFEE HOUR

help wanted

A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2023 - 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

Legacy, Estate and Will planning

With a successful stewardship season behind us now, our focus turns to Legacy, Estate and Will planning which will make stewardship a year round effort! Mark your calendar for next month as the Legacy Team will meet on Saturday April 29th from 10am-2pm in the parish hall! Hall. We encourage and invite anyone who is interested in participating and helping out on the Legacy Team! The objective is to prepare and plan for the St. Stephen's Legacy Summit in the Spring 2023. We are confident for a very strong turnout and a huge plus for the church! Everyone needs this kind of service and opportunity to plan their legacies for themselves and their families.

For further information please contact

Bill Bodine - Legacy Chairman at 848-210-4206.



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--February 9th, 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
Aristicare	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



Daughters of the British Empire



The (DBE) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit American society of women of British or Commonwealth of Nations birth, heritage or ancestry. We share and promote our heritage while supporting local charities and our senior living facilities across the United States.

To learn more about our local chapter, here in Ocean County, please email *Joan Saunders* – njstateorganizer@gmail.com

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, 13-16

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 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 human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

“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

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will 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.”



Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	<i>JoAnn Smithson</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Richard Smithson, JoAnn Smithson</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>
Lector 10:00 am	<i>Kay Karlick</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke, Kay Karlick,</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

Again, we hear a portion of the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew's gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of Moses. In today's reading, Jesus speaks of various requirements of the Law. Those who live in his Way will follow the Law inwardly, not simply outwardly. Jesus' own relationship to God as God's Child is revealed in his teaching our relationship as children of God given to us in baptism grows through the way of living he taught.

The first reading from Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) is perhaps the clearest statement on human freedom of choice in the Hebrew Scriptures. This passage alone would seem to suggest that everyone can do that which is right unhindered by sin. This passage needs the corrective supplied by today's gospel reading that makes it clear that we are still dependent upon God's gracious assistance if we are to carry out the inward obedience that Jesus commands.

In the second reading, Paul continues to seek to deal with division in the Corinthian church between cliques loyal to him and those loyal to Apollos. His approach is to suggest that each member of the body is essential and it is God alone who is building up the church through the varied ministries we are given. The liturgy is this truth about our life in the church, as each of us has a role to play and all of our individual liturgical actions and words combine to make the work of the people of God.

Sanctuary Candle

*The Sanctuary Candle is given to
The Glory of God*

*In Memory of
Virginia Hoyt, by the Woods Family*



Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
Virginia Hoyt, by the Woods Family*

