

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 2023

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden

Peter Quigley, Property Warden

Shelagh Bluni, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano

Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue

Bill Bodine, Richard Smithson Kay Karlick

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!

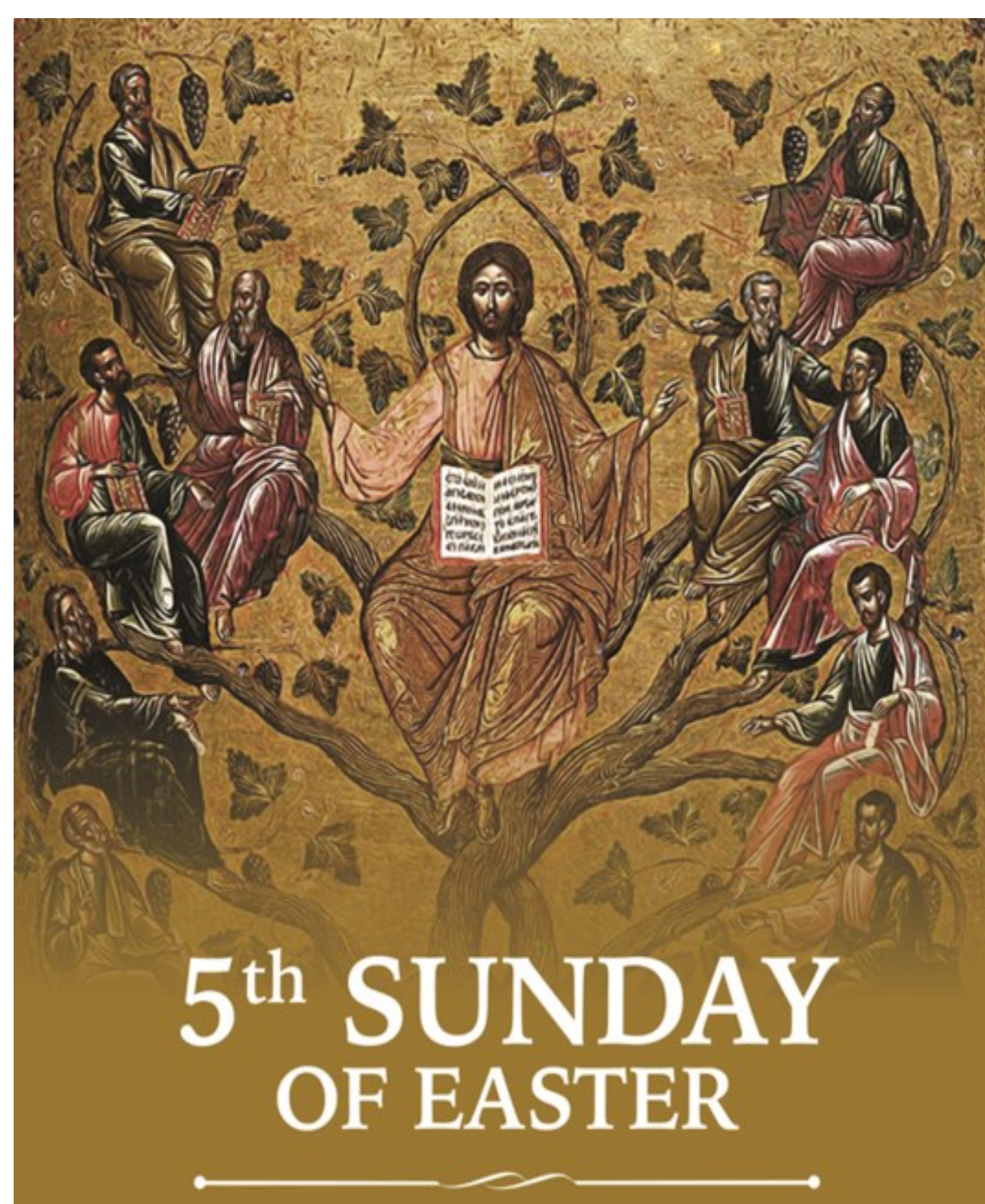
We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly 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.





Hymnal

The Word of God

BCP

455 Processional Hymn: “O Love of God”
Easter Acclamation

355

S280 Gloria
Collect of the Day
First Lesson: **Acts 7:55-60**

Insert

Insert

Insert

Insert

Insert

Psalm 31
Second Lesson: **1 Peter 2:2-10**
Gradual: “Word of God, speak” (Lyrics below)
Gospel: **John 14:1-14**

Sermon — *The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.*

The Nicene Creed 358
Confession and Absolution 393

The Peace
Announcements
Offertory Anthem
Doxology: “All things come of thee O Lord”

HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer D

372

S120 Sursum Corda

S125 Sanctus

S140 Memorial Acclamation

368

The Lord’s Prayer

364

Breaking of the Bread

S151 Fraction Anthem

Communion Hymns:

325 “Let us break bread together”

366 “Holy God, all praise Thy name”

457 “Thou art the way”

Post Communion Prayer

365

Blessing

484 Recessional: “Praise the Lord”

Dismissal

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

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

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, May 8th @10 AM

OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday May 11th after the Healing Service

PUBLIC RELATIONS MEETING

Sunday May 14th after the 10AM service

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, May 22nd @ 10am

PLEDGE CARDS

If you filled in a pledge card, your envelopes are in the Narthex on the shelf, right side before you enter the church. If you need envelopes, see our treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

FAMILY FUN DAY DANCE SPECTACULAR, COMING JUNE 4th!

We are having an organizational meeting of the family fun day dance spectacular team on **Sunday, May 21st** after the later service in the Parish Hall. If anyone wants to attend to find out what we're planning to do to please come to the meeting. Hope to see you there!

ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. See our schedule of services for Lent and Holy Week located in the Narthex or online at www.ststephenswhitingnj.org

Memorial Garden For Pets

(Cremains Only)

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 and more
(732) 350-2121

15th ANNUAL FAMILY FREEDOM WALK

Will be held at America's Keswick on Saturday, May 13th, 2023 3-6pm (*rain or shine*). Call (800) 453-7942 to register or visit the website at

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY

“Living a legacy of love: doing God's Work”

On Friday May 12, 2023, 11am at the United Church of Christ Church, 1681 Ridgeway Road– Rt. 571 Toms River. Contact Cindy at (908) 783-5182 or cindyw08755@gmail.com.

Please bring a non-perishable item for the food pantry.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ...*Amen.*

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.



Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In te, Domine, speravi

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; *

make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,

for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *

for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *

for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

15 My times are in your hand; *

rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *

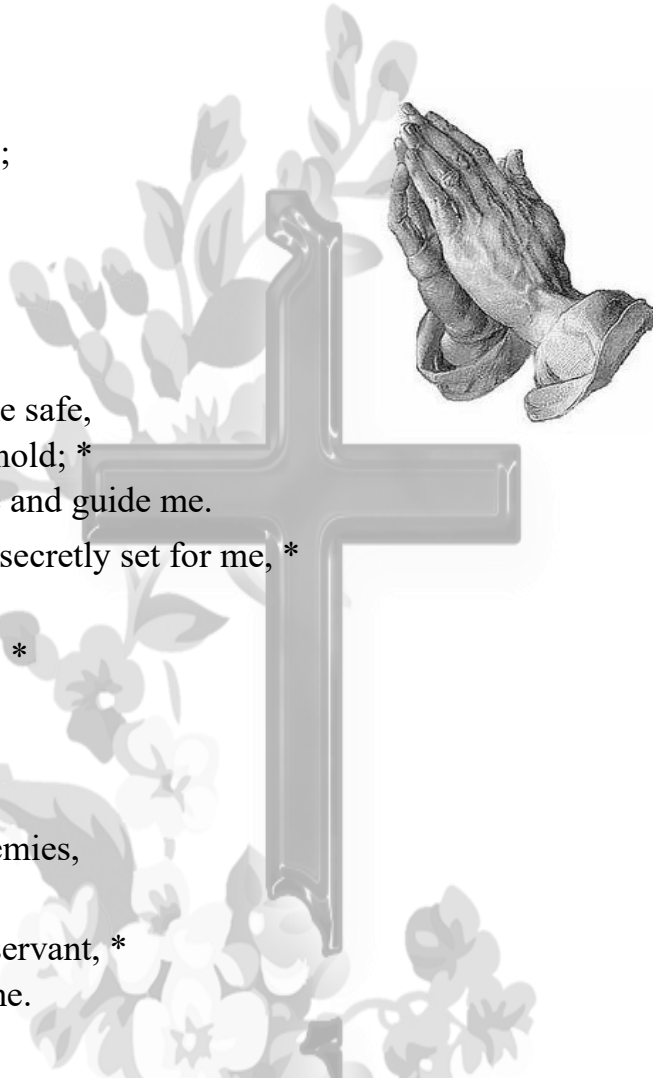
and in your loving-kindness save me.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meet-

ing at our church. Now accepting **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. Our winter 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.

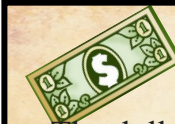
CARE GIVERS VOLUNTEERS ~ Caregivers volunteers, is a faith base organization that offer assistance to the elderly. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Caregivers at 732-505-2273 Ext 213

COFFEE HOUR



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

Dollar Auction



The dollar auction has been changed to June 24th 2023, doors open at eleven. We are accepting items that need to be new, not used. We are also looking for volunteers to help give out refreshments, runners to collect dollars and a banker to make change.

Any questions please see me at church.

Tom Larson



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--May 11th, 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



TECH THURSDAY



Tech Thursday meets monthly. Our next meeting is May 25th, Watch or call the church office for new dates and times to come. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, ipad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.

A Legacy Summit For Estate & Will Planning

Our Legacy event was a great success! Look for our upcoming dates for another Summit event.

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

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,
and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”



Welcome to St. Stephen's

We begin the fifth week of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each Sunday in the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost, we explore the implications of Jesus' dying and rising for our lives.

Today we hear from John's Gospel some of the Lord's words on the night before his death. The Lord tells his friends that he is going away and gives them his final instructions, "the new commandment" to love one another as he loves us.

This Sunday's reading from the book of Revelation is a vision of the final consummation of God's Kingdom as the new Jerusalem. The redeemed rejoice, for God dwells with them and does away forever with death and grief and weeping.

Today's reading from Acts traces further the extension of the proclamation of Christ's resurrection. Peter describes to the leaders of the church in Jerusalem the astounding discovery that God's call is not only to Jews but to the Gentiles as well, as he tells of the conversion and baptism of Cornelius, the first Gentile Christian. It is in our relationship of union with Christ in baptism and communion that his love for us is revealed. Our liturgy here equips us to carry out our larger liturgy, our work as God's people, in loving others through ministry, service, and prayer. In that way, the work of extending God's Kingdom will continue to spread in and through us, the Body of the Risen Christ, as we follow his command to love others as he loves us.

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

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Serving in the Liturgy today:

May 7, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	<i>JoAnn Smithson</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>JoAnn Smithson, Richard Smithson</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Linda Chiappetta</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:00 am	<i>Valerie Thompson</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine, Gerrie Vergona</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Beverly Larson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

Sanctuary Candle

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

*In Memory of
William Bodine by
Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
Warren (Buddy) Bruen
by June Bruen & Family*

