



## 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. Reverend Dr. Sally J. French, Bishop

The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector

Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator

Geraldine Vergona, Treasurer

Esther Graham, Music Director

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

### Wardens and Vestry 2024

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

Roberta Mackey, Maryann Payne, Marge Pomykala

Bill Bodine, Blanche Dwonch, Kay Karlick

Tom Larson, Ann Solaequi, Geraldine Vergona

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 of Easter



**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**APRIL 28, 2024  
8 & 10 am**

**Save the Date on Upcoming Events**



<i>Hymnal</i>	<i>The Word of God</i>	<i>BCP</i>
455	Processional Hymn: “ <i>O Love of God</i> ” Easter Acclamation	355
S280	Gloria Collect of the Day First Lesson: <i>Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40</i>	<i>Insert</i> <i>Insert</i> <i>Insert</i>
	<b><i>Psalm 22</i></b> Second Lesson: <i>1 John 4:7-21</i> Gradual: “ <i>Word of God, speak</i> ” ( <i>Lyrics below</i> ) Gospel: <i>John 10:11-18</i>	<i>Insert</i> <i>Insert</i> <i>Insert</i>
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i> The Nicene Creed Prayers of the People Form VI Confession and Absolution The Peace Announcements Offertory Anthem Doxology: “ <i>All things come of thee O Lord</i> ”	358 392 360

***HOLY COMMUNION***

	Eucharistic Prayer D	372
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S140	Memorial Acclamation The Lord’s Prayer Breaking of the Bread	368 364
S152	Fraction Anthem Communion Hymns:	
325	“ <i>Let us break bread together</i> ”	
366	“ <i>Holy God, all praise Thy name</i> ”	
457	“ <i>Thou art the way</i> ”	
	Post Communion Prayer Blessing	365
484	Recessional: “ <i>Praise the Lord</i> ” 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*

**WOMAN’S BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, gathering on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the each month at 11am. For info contact: *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863*

**CHOIR PRACTICE**

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

**HEALING SERVICES**

Join us every Thursday at 10 am for an experience that will help you find comfort, support, and spiritual healing. We welcome everyone with open hearts and look forward to sharing an enriching time with you.

**RADA ORDERS**

Contact Joy Frey and use the catalog to order Rada as soon as possible.

**Bowling Ministry**

We are proud and pleased to announce that **Fence Financial, The Heritage Restaurant** and **Nona’s Place** are now proud sponsors of our upcoming **KOH** tournament at Thunderbowl Lanes Wrightstown NJ!

**Garden Club**

Garden Club will be meeting on May 1st at 10am for a day with the Lavender Lady here at St. Stephen’s.

**MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY**

Church Women United will be hosting May Friendship Day at the Whiting Methodist Church on Lacey Road (across from Crestwood Manor) on Friday, May 3rd at 11AM. Contact the church if you are interested in attending.

**OSL**

Our next meeting is May 9th after the 11am healing service

**VESTRY MEETING**

Monday, May 20th @ 10am.

**STEWARDSHIP**

Stewardship would like to announce that we will be inducting the newest members into the Legacy Society this Sunday.





***CHAPEL CLOTHESLINE*** ~ We are now accepting **SPRING** 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. Please save donations for September Dignified Junk Sale until summer.

Sincerely, Linda Chiappetta

***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.



**coffee hour** A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2024 - 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

**Memorial Garden For Pets**

Keep an eye out for our next Memorial Service Date.

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

Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am-1:30pm  
for more info (732) 350-2121

***Collect of the Day***

**A**lmighty 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.

***A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40***

**B**ut an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert road. And he rose and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless some one guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the scripture which he was reading was this:

“As a sheep led to the slaughter  
or a lamb before its shearer is dumb,  
so he opens not his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken up from the earth.”

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, pray, does the prophet say this, about himself or about some one else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus, and passing on he preached the gospel to all the towns till he came to Caesarea.

**Psalm 22:24-30**

*Deus, Deus meus*

**24** My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

**25** The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \*

"May your heart live for ever!"

**26** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

**27** For kingship belongs to the LORD; \*  
he rules over the nations.

**28** To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**29** My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

**30** They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.



**Order of Saint Luke**

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month– January 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



**\$ AUCTION \$**

Brand new item's are needed for our dollar auction coming this summer, on June 15th. Please drop your items off at the Church office and label them "For \$ Auction". Or give them directly to Tom Larson. Thank you all, a for your ongoing support in contributing to our events here at St. Stephen's.

You can call the office for details at 732-350-2121

**TECH THURSDAY**

Tech Thursday meets monthly. Keep an eye out for our new dates to come. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and/or Bill Bodine will be able assist you.

**ONLINE 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 located online at [www.ststephenswhitingnj.org](http://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org)



## 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.**

## Bakers Cooks and Chefs

### Are Wanted!!

to whip up some tasty dishes for Fr. Paul's final time as the host of the

### **28th Annual**

## **Blessing of the Bike's**

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Choose from a variety of side dishes, condiments or drinks to bring.

We could not do it without the help and support of our generous

Congregation and surrounding community.

Thank you all.



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

**28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

## ***BLESSING OF THE BIKES and Father Paul's Retirement***

**SUNDAY MAY 5th 2024**

**HOURS 12 TO 4 RAIN OR SHINE**

BIKES WILL BE BLESSED AT 2 pm

BY: *FATHER PAUL VAN SANT*

Donation \$15 per person

Proceeds to benefit St. Stephen's Ministry

**NO CHARGE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10**

Ticket price includes Pork, Barbeque, Non-Alcoholic Beverages,

Family's Welcome, Trophies

There will be a Bike Show for Best Bike at the Blessing

**Our Address is**

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

**180 RT 539, WHITING, NJ 08759**

For info on where to purchase tickets & directions call the Church at:

**732-350-2121 (Mon-Thurs 10am to 2pm)**

## ***A Reading from the First letter of John 4:7-21***

**B**eloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because he first loved us. If any one says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should love his brother also.

## ***A Reading From the Gospel According to John 15:1-8***

**I** am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.





*Serving in the Liturgy today:*

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Susan Quigley</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke, Dottie Kaster</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>Mike Munson</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Bob Virtue, Bill Bodine, Gerrie Vergona</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Valerie Thompson</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

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.



**Sanctuary Candle**

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

*In Memory of Loved ones by Bill and  
Stefanie Bodine*

**Altar Flowers**

*Altar Flowers are given to  
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of Loved ones by Bill and  
Stefanie Bodine*

