

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
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.

Holy Name of our Lord

Jesus Christ



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Hymnal

The Word of God

JANUARY 1, 2023

8 & 10:00 am

BCP

99	Processional Hymn: "Go tell it on the Mountain"	
717	"My Country, 'Tis Of Thee"	
	Open Acclamation	355
	Opening Sentence	
S280	Gloria!	356
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Insert
	Psalm 147	Insert
	Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God Speak" (lyrics below)	
	Gospel: John 1:1-18	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
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	Doxology: "All things come of Thee, O Lord"	
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S157	Fraction Anthem	
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336	"Come with us so Blessed Jesus"	
324	"Let all mortal flesh keep silence"	
	Post Communion Prayer	366
	Announcements	
	Blessing	
107	Closing Hymn: "Good Christian Friends rejoice"	
	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*

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

"The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart", Mondays at 11am, 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, January 12th - after Healing Service

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, January 23rd @ 10am

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, January 9th @10AM

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.

OUR COMMITTEE TO HELP SELECT OUR NEXT BISHOP IS:

Stefanie Bodine, Chair

Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke, Michelle Winfrey, Bob Virtue and Greg Hartline.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2023



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!!!

Annual Meeting

One service at 9AM

Our annual meeting is on January 29, 2023.

The meeting will follow with our International Potluck Luncheon.

Please bring your favorite dish to share with all.

Sign up sheet will be in the Narthex

There will be a service on January 6th

one service at 10:00 am

“The Epiphany of our lord Jesus Christ”



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

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever...Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm 147

1 **H**allelujah!
 How good it is to sing praises to our God*
 how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
 he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *
 and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *
 and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
 there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
 but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
 make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
 and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains*
 and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
 and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a
 horse;*
 he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who
 fear him, *
 in those who await his gracious favor.

13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
 praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your
 gates; *
 he has blessed your children within you.

15 He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments.
 Hallelujah!



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meet-
ing 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 dona-
 tions to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN ~ is in need of additional mem-
 bers. 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 ques-
 tions 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, Es-
 tate and Will planning which will make stewardship a year round effort! Mark your cal-
 endar for next month as the Legacy Team will meet on Sunday January 15th after the later ser-
 vice in the parish hall! Hall. We encourage and invite anyone who is interested in partici-
 pating 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 oppor-
 tunity 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--January 12th, 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

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



On this first Sunday after Christmas, our attention is directed by the readings beyond the historical event of Jesus' birth to its cosmic and saving meaning. The Gospel reading is the theological prologue to the Gospel of John. This early Christian poem describes Jesus as the incarnation (en-fleshment) of the divine Word who is one with God, through whom God creates and redeems the world. It also expresses our unity with God by grace and faith. Thus, the birth of Jesus is not simply an event in his story but the event of our lives too.

The first reading today promises the reestablishment of God's people in His Kingdom. The prophet sees this as a certainty; in other words, it is an integral part of God's plan of salvation. The reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians is a portion of Paul's proclamation that in the new covenant our relationship to God is based on faith rather than obedience to the Law. Paul replaces the source of that new relationship in our unity through baptism with Jesus, which makes us sons, and daughters of God.

This Sunday's theme, then, expresses the double role of the Church's liturgy. It usually celebrates historical events, but in our action together as the people of God, the historical events are revealed as eternally saving events as well. In the liturgy, time and space are transcended and the events of history become the events of our own lives as individuals and as a community.

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

Lector 8:00 am	Linda Chiapetta
LEM 8:00 am	Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro
Ushers 8:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson
Lector 10:00 am	Kay Karlick
LEM 10:00 am	Carol Torres, Robert Virtue, Dottie Kaster
Altar Guild 10:00am	Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro
Ushers 10:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson



Sanctuary Candle

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

In Memory of

Charles Rotseart, by Stefanie & Bill Bodine

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

In Memory of

Charles Rotseart, by Stefanie & Bill Bodine

