

## 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

Gerianne Murphy Treasurer

Sandra Gaskill, Assistant Treasurer

Esther Graham, Music Minister

Colleen Clover, Parish Administrator

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

### Wardens and Vestry 2019

Carl Laursen, Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

Jack Brown, Laura Gural, Tom Larson

Lillian Fink, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley

Pat Russo, Randy Walton, Dottie Kaster

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.



I WILL GREATLY  
REJOICE  
IN THE LORD  
my soul shall be  
JOYFUL  
IN MY GOD  
ISAIAH 61:10

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II  
Hymnal**

**The Word of God**

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	Patriotic Hymn: 714 v 4	
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	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <b><i>Isaiah 61:10-62:3</i></b>	Insert
	<b><i>Psalm 147</i></b>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <b><i>Letter to the Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7</i></b>	Insert
	Gradual: “ <i>Word of God, Speak</i> ”	Insert
	Gospel: <b><i>John 1:1-18</i></b>	Insert
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324	“ <i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i> ”	
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	Dismissal	

**DECEMBER 29, 2019**

**8 & 10 am  
BCP**

**First Sunday After Christmas**

Serving in the Liturgy today:

**DECEMBER 29, 2019**

Lector 8:00 AM	Shrene DeLucia
LEM 8:00 AM	Jo Ann Smithson
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	Sandra Gaskill
LEMs 10:00 AM	Lillian Fink, Stefanie Rotsaert
Altar Guild 10:00 AM	Pat Russo, June Coles
Ushers 10:00 AM	Joe Orsita, Laura Gural

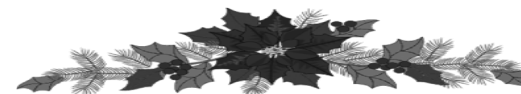
CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF

December 29, 2019-January 4, 2020

Today	Holy Eucharist	8:00 & 10:00am
	AA Meeting	8:00 pm
Monday	Office Open	9:00 am—2:00 pm
Tuesday	HAPPY NEW YEAR	
Wednesday	Closed AA Meeting	3:00 pm
	<b><i>Choir Practice</i></b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
Thursday	Healing Service	10:00 am
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.



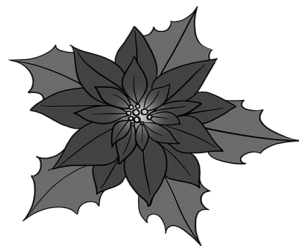
## *The Legend of the Poinsettia*

*Outside the lowly manger where  
slept the new-born King  
Stood a sad and lonely child who  
had no gift to bring.*

*An angel hovered o're her and in  
that star-bright night  
Made a lovely pathway of flowers  
green, red and white.*

*With joyous heart she gathered  
them and brought them to the child  
And lo! A radiance touched her  
when the Holy Baby smiled*

**From:**  
**J. Calloway's**  
**Legends of Christmas**



**First Sunday After Christmas**

**December 29, 2019**

### **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 soul 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 forth 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 goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name which 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 Hallelujah!  
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 swift-  
ly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ash-  
es.
- 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 oth-  
er nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed  
his judgments.  
Hallelujah!



## **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.

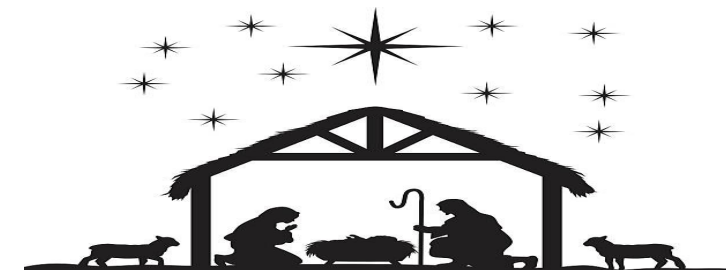
**LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED** There is an **URGENT** call out for Lay Eucharistic Ministers for both our 8:00 and 10:00a.m. services.



**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.



**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 .



**Way of Saint Paul**

***“For unto you is born this day,  
in the City of David, a Savior,  
which is Christ the Lord ”***

*Luke 2:11*



**STEWARDSHIP**

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be too”*

*Matthew 6:19-21*

***Second Reading***

*Letter to the Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7*

Now before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

***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 were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. 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 nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

## Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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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## Announcements

December 29, 2019

### 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  
In honor of my sister Claire Wolpert's Birthday by her sister Stefanie  
And  
In memory of my husband, Robert Pearl  
By his wife, Greta*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
In Honor, In Memory, and in Thanksgiving  
Of family, friends and loved ones  
Please see our Christmas Flower list in the Narthex*

### 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