

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!

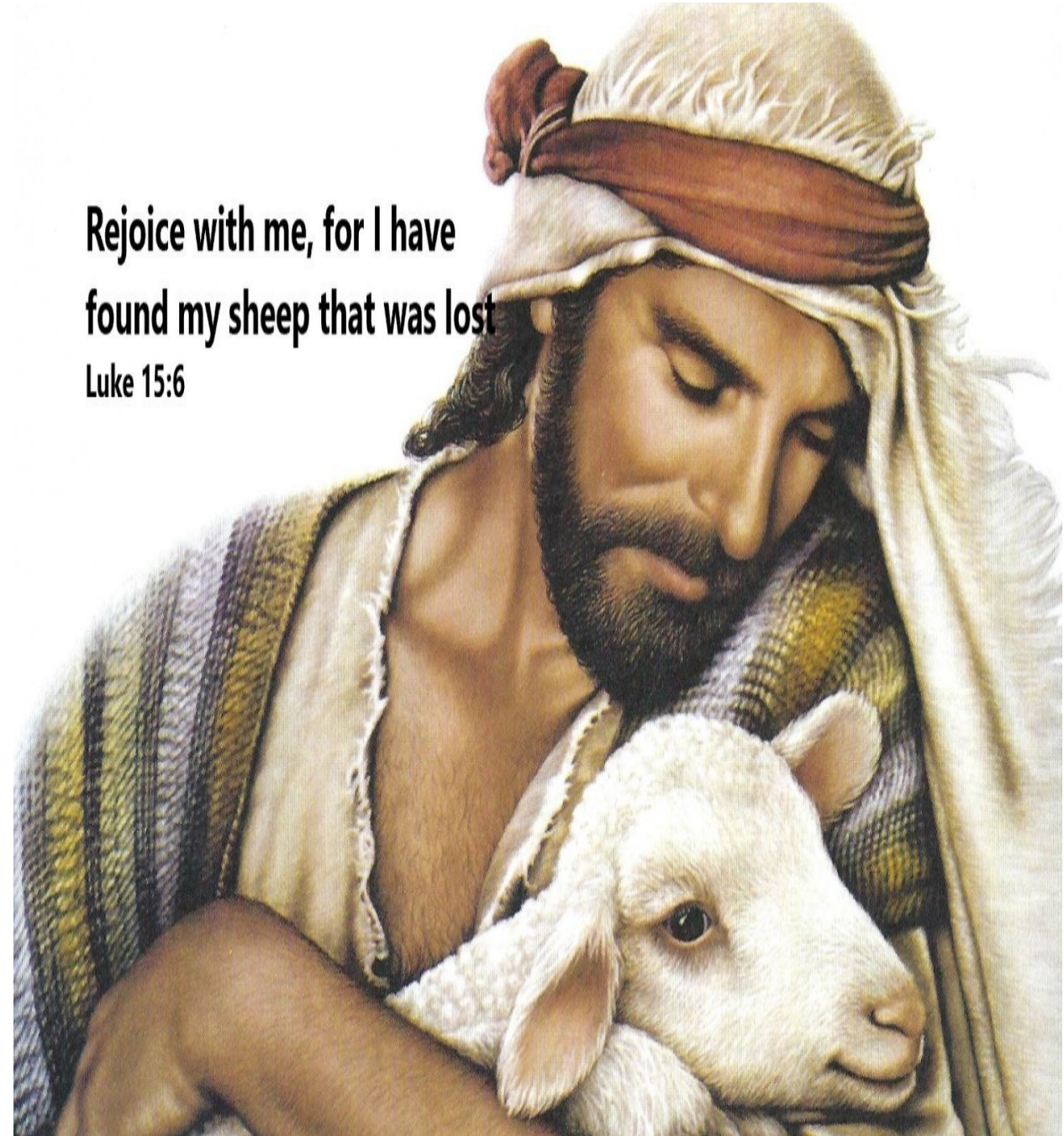
We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Rejoice with me, for I have
found my sheep that was lost**
Luke 15:6



**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 18
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

09/11/2022
8 am & 10 am

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
401	Processional Hymn: "The God of Abraham praise" Open Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Insert
	Psalm 51	Insert
	Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 1:12-17	Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God, Speak" (Lyrics Below)	Insert
	Gospel: Luke 15:1-10	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People Form VI	392
	Confession and Absolution	393
	The Peace	360
	Offertory Anthem	
	Doxology: "All things come of thee O Lord"	

HOLY COMMUNION

	The Great Thanksgiving	
	Eucharistic Prayer A	361
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S133	Memorial Acclamation	363
	The Lord's Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	"Let Us Break Bread Together"	
470	"There's a wideness in God's mercy"	
489	"The great Creator of the worlds"	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
	Announcements	
708	Recessional: "Savior. Like a Shepard lead us" 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
This weeks title: 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, October 13th - after Healing Service

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, September 26th @ 10am

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

September 12TH @10AM

HOMECOMING BBQ

Sunday, September 11, ONE SERVICE ONLY!
A **Pot Luck BBQ** after 10:15am service.

STEWADRSHIP BIBLE SYUDY

Sing-up sheet in the Narthex

MEDICARE INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR

Friday October 14,2022 1pm
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in our Parish Hall
Refreshments will be provided

Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex to properly accommodate for refreshments



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!!!



UTO ~ The United Thank Offering or UTO, is a worldwide program that has existed for over 100 years. The blue boxes remind us of each day, of what God has given us, and we are thankful, as we say a prayer and collect some coins to put in the box. The blue boxes and envelopes will be in the Narthex for your contribution from now, until **September 18**.

The **UTO** Ingathering and Diocesan ECW **Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 24 at 10AM at St. David's, Cranbury**. The Meeting will also be on zoom and you tube. Our Bishop will join us at that time as well. See *Stefanie Bodine*, or call her at (732) 350-2904 with your questions.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ~ Each year we fill the shoeboxes to share with children in need. This is the perfect time to pick up back to school supplies in our local stores to fill these shoeboxes. More details will follow. Any ?, contact *Stefanie Bodine* at (732) 350-2904

The Bishop is coming! Rescheduled date!

We welcome the Right Reverend William H. (Chip) Stokes,
to St. Stephen's!

Sunday October 9th, 2022 at 10:15am
ONE SERVICE ONLY

For the purpose of confirmation and reception
&

A reception will follow the 10:15am service with refreshments and snacks.
More information to come.

Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever...*Amen*.

First Reading

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem, “A hot wind from the bare heights in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, a wind too full for this comes for me. Now it is I who speak in judgment upon them.”

“For my people are foolish,
they know me not;
they are stupid children,
they have no understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil,
but how to do good they know not.”

I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void;
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.

I looked, and lo, there was no man,
and all the birds of the air had fled.

I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

For thus says the LORD, “The whole land shall be a desolation;
yet I will not make a full end.

For this the earth shall mourn,
and the heavens above be black;
for I have spoken, I have purposed;
I have not relented nor will I turn back.”

Psalm 51:1-11

Miserere mei, Deus

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meeting 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 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



help wanted



COFFEE HOUR

A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2022 - 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





Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--September 8th, 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

Stewardship Meeting

Greetings all!

Our stewardship slate of speakers is now complete, and thanks to all who are willing to participate this year!

After going online with project resource the last couple of weeks we came up with an idea to share. Wanted to have a fireside fall chat about stewardship on Sunday October 30th during the coffee hours and we can have a pow wow and talk stewardship! Why not bring your thoughts and ideas about stewardship to coffee hour! It's a great and informative way to exchange ideas about stewardship and to gather other people's ideas as well what they're thinking of.

If you have any other ideas and suggestions please let me know. I'm always looking for ways to improve the program. The season opens on Sunday September 18th where I'll open the season with a speech to the congregation. We have a very talented slate this year and our consecration Sunday speaker is Canon Phyllis Jones from the diocese of NJ. Consecration Sunday is Sunday November 20th.

Our program is nearly set and we always look for more to do as it's a year round effort!

Sunday October 30th

During both coffee hours

Bring your thoughts and ideas..

And enjoy some fall refreshments

Like apple cider, cider and pumpkin doughnuts and assorted pastries.

We would be delighted to hear your Stewardship suggestions to improve the program.



For more information contact *Bill Bodine* at 848-210-4206

Second Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

I thank him who has given me strength for this, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful by appointing me to his service, though I formerly blasphemed and persecuted and insulted him; but I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.'" Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.'" Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."



Sin and the need to repent are central to the liturgy today. In the reading from Luke, Jesus speaks in reply to those who complained that he had table fellowship with sinners. God, he says, cares about each person, seeks out each one, and rejoices as each sinner repents.

In the first reading, Moses at first seems more forgiving than God. When the people rebelled and created their own god to worship, God intended to destroy them all. It was Moses' entreaty that reminded God of the divine nature and that the people are the fruit of God's promise to the patriarchs. Moses is the human intermediary who becomes the instrument of God's forgiveness.

We begin a series of readings from the first letter to Timothy today. Paul is described as the greatest of sinners because he persecuted the faith. However, his life is held up as proof of God's forgiveness. His having been accepted by God has equipped him to proclaim God's love to all people. Paul, like Moses brings others into the goodness of God as well.

In our life of pilgrimage into God's Kingdom, Jesus—God among us—is the embodiment of God's unremitting call to us to come home to our true lover and friend. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit in baptism to share the vocation of Moses and Paul to be mediators and instruments of God's love and forgiveness to the world.

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	<i>Susan Quigley</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Peter Quigley</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Debbie Fisher, Dave Fisher</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:15 am	<i>Kay Karlick</i>
LEM 10:15 am	<i>Susan Clarke, Robert Virtue</i>
Altar Guild 10:15 am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:15 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

Sanctuary Candle

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

***In Memory of
Ernest J. Clarke III,
by Daughter Susan Clarke***

Altar Flowers

***Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God***

***In Honor of
Sans Memorial***

