

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759
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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 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

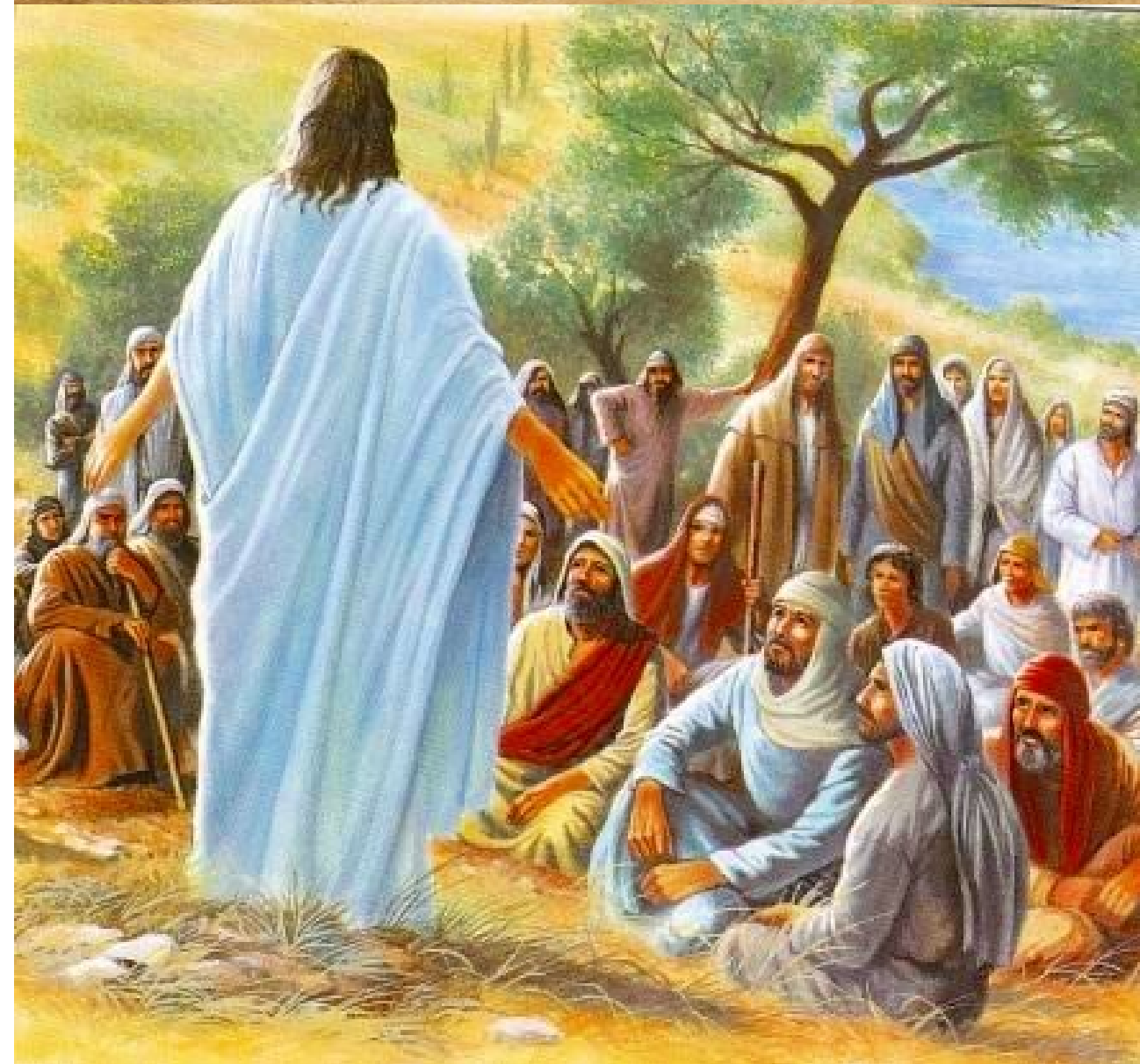
Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

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.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Hymnal *The Word of God*

438 Processional Hymn: "Tell out my soul"

Open Acclamation

Opening Sentence

S280 *Gloria!*

Collect of the Day

First Lesson: *Micah 6:1-8*

Psalm 15

Second Lesson: *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

Gradual: "Word of God Speak" (lyrics below)

Gospel: *Matthew 5:1-12*

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

The Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People (Form III)

Confession and Absolution

The Peace

Offertory:

Doxology: "All things come of Thee, O Lord"

HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer "B"

S120 Sursum Corda

S125 Sanctus

S136 Memorial Acclamation

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

S152 Fraction Anthem

Communion Hymns:

325 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

593 "Lord make us servants of your peace"

656 "Blest are the pure in heart"

Post Communion Prayer

Announcements

Blessing

542 Closing Hymn: "Christ is the world's true light"

Dismissal

JANUARY 29, 2023

9:00 am

BCP

355

356

Insert

Insert

Insert

Insert

Insert

358

387

359

360

367

368

364

364

366

*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-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

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

2nd Thursday of each month, February 9th - after Healing Service

AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE

Tuesday, February 7th @ 9am - In the Parish Hall here at St. Stephen's
Church. Call *Stefanie Bodine* for more info at 732-278-4846

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, February 13th @10 AM

VALENTINE'S DAY

Tuesday, February 14th from 3-6 pm. \$15 per person or \$25 per couple for
dinner, treasure auction, and a night of Fun. B.Y.O.B. or enjoy non-alcoholic
beverages provided. For Tickets, contact *Barbara Marshall* at 732-778-2628

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 21st @ 4-6pm. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, (NO
CHARGE)

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, February 27th @ 10am

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

Today. 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

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.

A Legacy Summit For Estate & Will Planning

Please join us for a day of will & estate planning for your final expenses on Saturday April 29th from 10am-2pm!

Public Relations Meeting

Sunday February 5th, after our regular scheduled services.

See Bill Bodine for info and any questions you may have

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 and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever... *Amen.*

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm 15

Domine, quis habitabit?

- 1 **L**ORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meeting 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 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

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, Estate and Will planning which will make stewardship a year round effort! Mark your calendar for next month as the Legacy Team will meet on Saturday April 29th from 10am-2pm in the parish hall! Hall. We encourage and invite anyone who is interested in participating 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 opportunity 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--February 9th, 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
Our next meeting in January is on, Wednesday the 25th at 10:30am in the St. Stephen's Parish Hall.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”



Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 9:00 am
LEM 9:00 am
Altar Guild 9:00am
Ushers 9:00 am

Bill Bodine
Carol Torres, Susan Clarke, Dottie Kastor
Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro
Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

In today's liturgy, we continue the account of Jesus' sermon in his home synagogue in Nazareth and its results. The congregation immediately discounts his teaching because he is known to them. Jesus points out that the prophets and teachers of the past were rejected by their own people and so took their message to others. This enrages the congregation and he barely escapes with his life.

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah is called by God and demurs at first because of his youth. But God implants the word in Jeremiah and commissions him to bring a message of challenge to all peoples. Subsequently Jeremiah, like Jesus, was rejected by those to whom he was sent.

The second reading today carries on Paul's teaching to the Corinthians about the proper use of spiritual gifts. After speaking of various gifts of the Spirit, he explains that all of them are empty and meaningless without love, which is the greatest of all gifts, and the only one that lasts. This well-known passage, justly loved by Christians, is also a challenge to all of us to judge our gifts by the love they build up in the church, which is the body of Christ.

We gather in Eucharist to meet Christ and to hear his message. Today's readings carry a warning to us that those who reject the message will find its promises going to others. We too are to bear that message and to state it clearly. We may be rejected, but like Jesus and the prophets before him, we continue to go to all people and to proclaim that message by word and deed so that all people may hear it and accept it.

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

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

*In Memory of
Charles Rotsaert, by Stefanie & Bill Bodine*

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
Joan E. Lentkowski-Axon, by Bob Axon*

