

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. 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 2023

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden

Peter Quigley, Property Warden

Shelagh Bluni, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano

Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue

Bill Bodine, Richard Smithson Kay Karlick

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

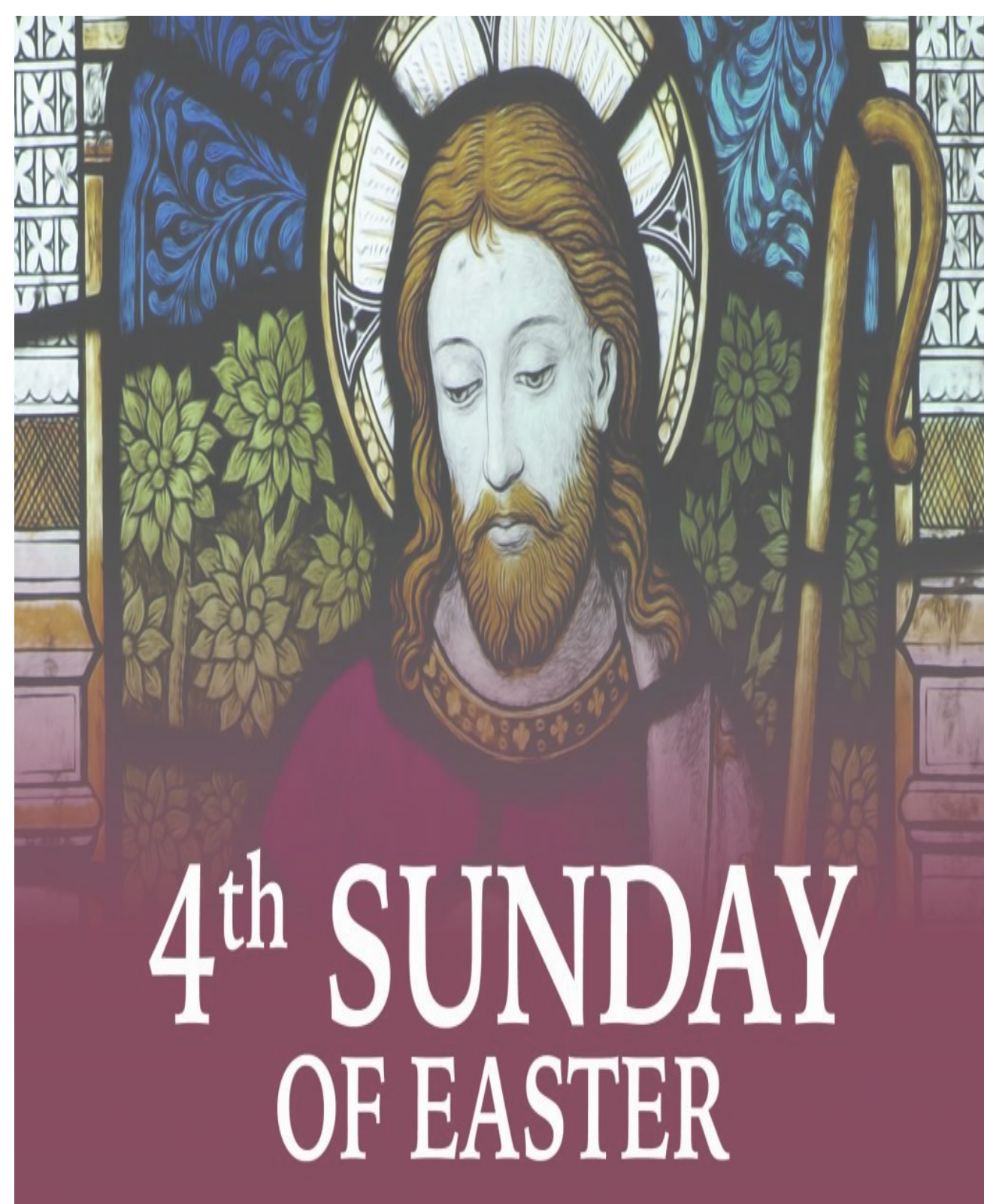
Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

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.





Hymnal

The Word of God

BCP

708 Processional Hymn: “Savior like a Sheppard lead us ”
Easter Acclamation
S280 Gloria
Collect of the Day
First Lesson: *Acts 2:42-47*
Psalm 23
Second Lesson: *1 Peter 2:19-25*
Gradual: “Word of God, speak” (Lyrics below)
Gospel: *John 10:1-10*
Sermon — *The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.*
The Nicene Creed
Prayers of the People Form VI
Confession and Absolution
The Peace
Offertory Anthem
Doxology: “All things come of thee O Lord”

355

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358

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393

HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer D
S120 Sursum Corda
S125 Sanctus
S140 Memorial Acclamation
The Lord’s Prayer
Breaking of the Bread
S151 Fraction Anthem
Communion Hymns:
325 “Let us break bread together”
664 “My Sheppard shall supply my need”
646 “The king of love, my Sheppard is”
Post Communion Prayer
Blessing
205 Recessional: “Good Christians all rejoice”
Announcements
Dismissal

372

368

364

365

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

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

OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday May 11th after the Healing Service

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, May 8th @10 AM

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, May 22nd @ 10am

THE NEXT STEWARDSHIP LEGACY SUMMIT MEETING

Saturday, April 29.

PLEDGE CARDS

If you filled in a pledge card, your envelopes are in the Narthex on the shelf, right side before you enter the church. If you need envelopes, see our treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

FAMILY FUN DAY DANCE SPECTACULAR, COMING JUNE 4th!

We are having an organizational meeting of the family fun day dance spectacular team on **Sunday May 21st** between the two services in the Parish Hall. If anyone wants to attend to find out what we're planning to do to please come to the meeting. Hope to see you there!



Online Church 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 for Lent and Holy Week located in the Narthex or online at www.ststephenswhitingnj.org

Memorial Garden For Pets

(Cremains Only)

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

Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am–2pm for and more
(732) 350-2121

15th Annual Family Freedom Walk

Will be held at America's Keswick on Saturday, May 13th, 2023 3-6pm (*rain or shine*). Call (800) 453-7942 to register or visit the website at www.americaskeswick.org to sign-up.

Today There Will Be A Short Finance Committee Meeting

9am for Vestry Members

Public relations team meeting

Sunday May 14th after the later service in the parish Hall.

May Friendship Day

“Living a legacy of love: doing God's Work”

On Friday May 12, 2023, 11am at the United Church of Christ Church, 1681 Ridgeway Road– Rt. 571 Toms River. Contact Cindy at (908) 783-5182 or cindyw08755@gmail.com.

Please bring a non-perishable item for the food pantry.

Collect of the Day

Ⓟ God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever... *Amen*

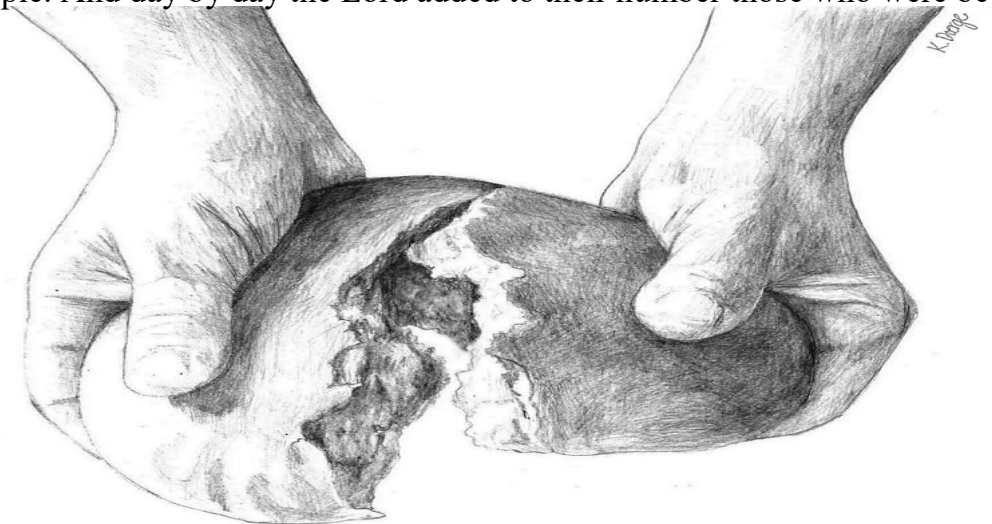


First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

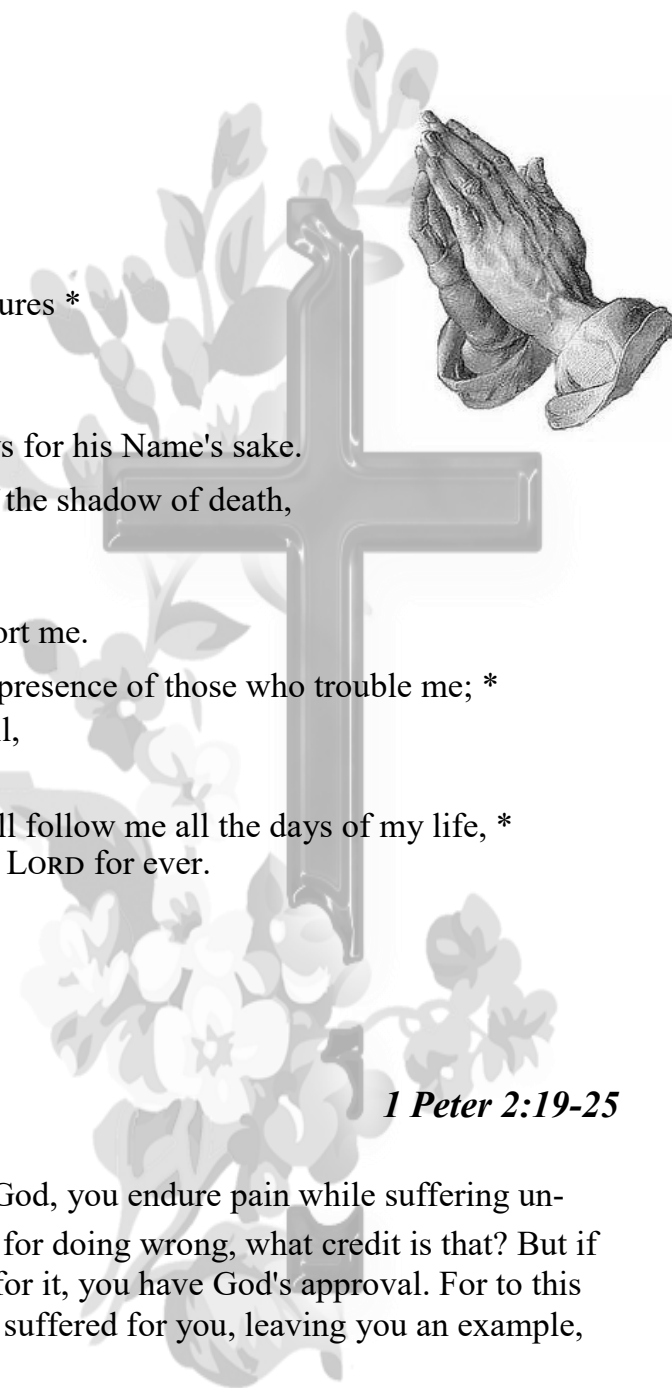
Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.



Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

1. **T**he LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
3. He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
4. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
6. Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.



Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.



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 winter clothes are now on clearance sale. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

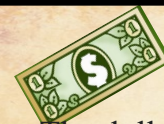
ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN ~ is in need of additional members. The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of parishioners who will pray for any who are in need. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Greta Pearl at 732-350-7584 for details. Greta is the contact when placing, 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

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



Dollar Auction



The dollar auction has been changed to June 24th 2023, doors open at eleven. We are accepting items that need to be new, not used. We are also looking for volunteers to help give out refreshments, runners to collect dollars and a banker to make change.

Any questions please see me at church.

Tom Larson



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--May 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



TECH THURSDAY



Tech Thursday meets monthly. Our next meeting is May 25th, Watch or call the church office for new dates and times to come. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, ipad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.

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!

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

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”





Serving in the Liturgy today:

April 23, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Susan Quigley</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine</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>Kay Karlick</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Robert Virtue, Susan Clarke, Kay Karlick</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Beverly Larson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

This day in the church year is traditionally called Good Shepherd Sunday. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd of his people was connected very early in the church's life with Holy Baptism. The Good Shepherd is the most common decoration in baptisteries in church buildings from the second and third centuries. This image was reinforced in the church's art, liturgy, and music by the Old Testament's use of the shepherd image to express the care God has for all people.

In the Book of Revelation, a portion of which is read this year on every Sunday of Easter, we hear today the description of the gathering of all the redeemed. Their white robes are the sign that they have been baptized, for in earlier times the newly baptized were clothed in white. This custom is preserved in many places with christening gowns. The redeemed rejoice, for Christ is in their midst as the Good Shepherd.

Our reading from Acts today describes the ongoing work of the risen Christ through the church. Peter raises Tabitha from death. The great excitement which the early Christians felt was their discovery that Jesus continues to live in his faithful people.

As in John's vision of the heavenly worship so in our Eucharistic gathering Christ the Good Shepherd stands in our midst leading us to the springs of the water of life.

Sanctuary Candle

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

*In Memory of
Charles Rotsaert by
Stefanie and Bill Bodine*

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
Warren (Buddy) Bruen
by June Bruen & Family*

*In Memory of
My Husband Robert Pearl On our 75th
Anniversary by Greta Pearl*

