



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. Reverend Dr. Sally J. French, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, (Retired 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, Kay Karlick, Richard Smithson

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.



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Love



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite I

December 24, 2023

9AM

Hymnal	THE WORD OF GOD	BCP
56	Processional Hymn: "O come, O come, Emmanuel"	
	Opening Acclamation	319
	Opening Sentence	320
	Confession and Absolution	320
S-91	Kyrie	324
	The Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Insert
	Canticle 3	Insert
	Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27	Insert
	Gradual – "Alleluia, He is coming"	
	The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38	Insert
	Sermon: Fr. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.	
	The Nicene Creed	327
	Prayers of the People	328
	The Peace	332
	Offertory Anthem:	
	Doxology: "All things come of thee O Lord"	

HOLY COMMUNION

	Eucharist Prayer I	333
S112	Sursum Corda	
S113	Sanctus	
	The Lord's Prayer	336
	Breaking of the Bread	337
S157	Agnus Dei	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	"Let us Break Bread Together"	
314	"Humbly I adore you"	
318	"Here O my Lord, I see Thee face to face"	
679	"Surely it is God who saves me"	
	Blessing	339
	Announcements	
437	Recessional: "Tell out my soul"	
	Dismissal	

Gradual:

"Alleluia, He is Coming";
 "Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"
 "Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"
 "I looked up and I saw my Lord a coming"
 "I looked up and saw my Lord a coming down the road"
 "Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"
 "Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

WOMAN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

"The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart", 1ST & 3RD Mondays at 11am for info contact: *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863 (No Bible Study in December)*

CHOIR PRACTICE

Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs.

HEALING SERVICES

Join us every Thursday at 10 am for an experience that will help you find comfort, support, and spiritual healing. We welcome everyone with open hearts and look forward to sharing an enriching time with you.

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, January 22nd @ 10am.

WHITING GARDEN CLUB

No meeting in January. Happy Holidays!

OSL WILL BE MEETING



Christmas Services

Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Services

9am, Fourth Sunday of Advent

3:30pm, Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

4pm, Christmas Eve Eucharist

7pm, Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist with Guitar

Dec 25th - Christmas Day, Feast of the Nativity at 10am

Jan 1st - Feast of the Holy Name, service at 10am

Jan 6th - Epiphany Service at 10am



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.**

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 located online at www.ststephenswhitingnj.org

TECH THURSDAY

Tech Thursday meets monthly. Keep an eye out for new dates to come. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting.

Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will be able assist you.



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



Mark your calendars

On January 14th 2024 we welcome

Bishop Sally French here at St Stephen's Episcopal Church

There will be one service at 9am and a pot luck after.

Collect of the Day

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A reading from the second book of Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king dwelt in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies round about, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart; for the Lord is with you.”

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.



And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.’ ”



Canticle 3

The Song of Mary Magnificat
Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **Fall and 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 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.

COFFEE HOUR



A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2024 - 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

Memorial Garden For Pets

Keep an eye out for our next Memorial Service Date.

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

Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am–1:30pm for more info

(732) 350-2121



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



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month— January 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



Helping Seniors navigate the Medicare arena for 10+ years.



Contact us for info and any questions you may have

106 Union Ave Manasquan, NJ 08736

info@seniormomentsmedicare.com

(732) 528-4580

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nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.



Serving in the Liturgy today:

December 24, 2023

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

*Ricki Minix
Richard Smithson, Bill Bodine
Linda Chiappetta
Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine*

The theme of the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the role of the Virgin Mary in the events that brought about our salvation. A related theme is the Lord's human nature.

The first reading deals with the Messiah's human origins. He will come from the village of Bethlehem within the clan of Ephrathah, the smallest and least significant of all the clans of the Tribe of Judah. The importance of this prophecy from the book of Micah is that with the Messiah, as with all people, greatness comes from God rather than from human sources.

It was as an obedient human being that Jesus made the willing offering of himself for our salvation, says the author of the Letter to the Hebrews. The salvation of humanity was accomplished within human life not apart from it.

Human nature has a real and definitive role to play, a role revealed in the story of Mary. Today's Gospel reading is the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Both Elizabeth and her unborn son rejoice in Mary's role. Mary then praises God in the words used by the church at Evening Prayer, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." God's blessing of Mary, the lowly servant, will be extended in the ministry of Christ to all, especially the poor and the lowly. In her acceptance and cooperation with God's will, Mary becomes the human agent of God's gift of the redeeming Christ to the world.



Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

These flowers are placed

*In Loving Memory of
Jaqueline Bodine
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

*In Loving Memory of
Bill, Hope, Kim & Michelle
by Dottie Kaster*

*In Loving Memory of
Eugene Byrne
by St Stephens Ministry*

*In Loving Memory of
William Bodine
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

Sanctuary Candle

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

This candle burns

*In Loving Memory of
Jaqueline Bodine
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

*In Loving Memory of
Eugene Byrne
by St Stephens Ministry*

*In Honor of
Baby Jesus's Birthday
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

*In Loving Memory of
William Bodine
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*