

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 —email: pvasant@gmail.com

Gerianne Murphy Treasurer—email: ssechurch.treasurer@gmail.com

Sandra Gaskill, Assistant Treasurer —email: ssechuch.assisttr.com

Esther Graham, Music Minister

Colleen Clover, Parish Administrator—email: ssechurch@gmail.com

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Wardens and Vestry 2020

Stefanie Rotsaert, Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

Lillian Fink, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley

Pat Russo, Randy Walton, Dottie Kaster

Bill Bodine, Tom Larson, Sam Mauro

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 Stefanie Rotsaert, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.

Moses went up on the
mountain, the cloud
covered it,

and the glory of the Lord
settled on Mount Sinai.

Exodus 24:15-16

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
Hymnal

The Word of God

135	Processional: “ <i>Songs of Thankfulness and Praise</i> ”	
	Patriotic Hymn: 714 v 4	
	Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion	
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Book of Exodus 24:12-18	Insert
	Psalm 2	Insert
	Second Lesson: Second Letter of Peter 1:16-21	Insert
	Gradual: “ <i>Word of God, Speak</i> ”	Insert
	Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9	Insert
	Sermon — The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People form VI	392
	Confession and Absolution	393
	The Peace	360
	Announcements	
	Doxology: “ <i>All things come of thee O Lord</i> ”	
	HOLY COMMUNION	
	The Great Thanksgiving	
	Eucharistic Prayer B	367
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S152	Breaking of the Bread	
	The Lord’s Prayer	364
	Communion Hymns:	
427	“ <i>When Morning Guilds the Skies</i> ”	
129	“ <i>Christ upon the Mountain Peak</i> ”	
328	Post Communion Hymn “ <i>Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord</i> ” (v 1-4)\	
	Post Communion Prayer	
	Blessing	
460	Recessional: “ <i>Alleluia! Sing to Jesus</i> ” (v. 1,3 & 4)	
	Dismissal	

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 AM	Peter Quigley
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	Bill Bodine, Richard Woods
Altar Guild 10:00 AM	Valerie Thompson, Beverly Larson
Ushers 10:00 AM	Bob Axon, Jim Mason

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF

February 23, 2020 - February 29, 2020

Today	Holy Eucharist	8:00 am & 10:00 am
	<i>Blessing of the Bikes Planning Meeting</i>	<i>After service</i>
	<i>Installation of Vestry members</i>	
	AA Meeting	8:00 pm
Monday	Office Open	9:00 am—2:00 pm
Tuesday	Closed AA Meeting	2:00 pm
		2:00 pm
Wednesday	Closed AA Meeting	3:00 pm
	Choir Practice	10:00 am
Thursday	Healing Service	10:00 am
	Bible Study starting March 3rd	Noon & 5:00 pm
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.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday February 25, 2020

From 4-6 pm

Come enjoy a Shrove Pancake Dinner hosted by our Men's Club at Saint Stephens.

There is no charge!

Sign up sheet is in the Narthex

And

Our Annual Corned Beef Dinner

March 14, 2020 at 3 pm the cost is 15.00 per person

Tickets are on sale at the office and after church each Sunday.

Saint Stephens

INDOOR FLEA MARKET

Saturday, April 25th

9 am-1 pm

Are you doing some spring cleaning? Our indoor flea market gives us a good chance to sell those odds and ends and *white elephants* we find cluttering our home. Tables are available for 10.00

To reserve a table call JoAnn Smithson

@ 732-408-5351

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23, 2020

Collect of the Day

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Book of Exodus 24:12-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tables of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses rose with his servant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, "Tarry here for us, until we come to you again; and, behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a cause, let him go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. And Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

A couple of reminders.....

- ***Pick up your 2019 giving statements***
- ***Check out our new activities calendar and mark your calendars for 2020***
- ***Stefanie has tickets on sale for both Teas: April 16th and May 21st.***
- ***Come to Bible Study on Thursdays at Noon: The last in this series. The next series begins Tuesday, March 3rd at Noon and again at 5:00 for Soup & Study. Our topic will be "Women of the Bible"***
- ***Vestry Meeting is Tomorrow Monday February 24th @ 10 a.m.***
- ***Get your own Liturgical calendar for \$3.00. This calendar is a Church Year Guide with Eucharistic readings for the year at your fingertips.***
- ***Purchase a Super 50/50 Tickets. Drawing is March 31, 2020***



Psalm 2

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar? *
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes plot together, *
against the LORD and against his Anointed?
- 3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; *
"let us cast off their bonds from us."
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the Lord has them in derision.
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.
- 6 "I myself have set my king *
upon my holy hill of Zion."
- 7 Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
he said to me, "You are my Son;
this day have I begotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- 9 You shall crush them with an iron rod *
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
- 10 And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- 11 Submit to the LORD with fear, *
and with trembling bow before him;
- 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 13 Happy are they all *
who take refuge in him!



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 Spring/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. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

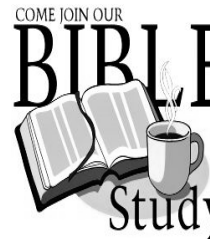
LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED There is an UR - GENT call out for Lay Eucharistic Ministers for both our 8:00 and 10:00a.m. services.



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.



The next six-week bible study series will begin Tuesday, March 3rd. The topic will be "*Women of the Bible.*" We will meet Tuesdays at noon and again at 5:00 pm for Soup and Study. Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to attend so we have an idea how much soup we will need.

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 .

STEWARDSHIP

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils, it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

1 Timothy 6:10

Bible Study
We will be studying
"Women of the Bible"
Beginning Tuesday, March 3
At Noon and again at 5 PM which is
for
Soup and Study
Please sign up
in the Narthex if you
would like to join us
for this 6 week series.



EASTER FLOWER DEADLINE!

Remember: The deadline for Easter Flower offerings is Sunday, March 29, 2020,

Easter Sunday is April 12 this year. This is a time when we especially want to remember our loved ones and friends, or express thanksgiving for someone's kindness and love.

For questions, please contact Val Thompson @

(732) 657-4510



The Fellowship & Fundraising Committee invite everyone to purchase their tickets for the Super 50/50 draw taking place March 31st.
Tickets are 10.00 per chance.

And

We are collecting NEW items for the Dollar Auction for
April 4th at noon.
For information and questions
Please contact Beverly or Tom Larson
at
(732) 849-6256



Second Reading

Second Letter of Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Eli'jah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Eli'jah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

On this final Sunday before Lent, we always have as our Gospel reading the account of Jesus' transfiguration. This event is chosen primarily because it marks the turning point in the story of Jesus. It was on this occasion that Jesus clearly foretold his approaching death and resurrection. Thus we are pointed in our Lenten pilgrimage toward the cross and Easter.

The Old Testament reading records Moses' meeting with God on Mt. Sinai in an event like the transfiguration. His forty days and nights with God on the mountain are a prefiguring of our time with God in Lent.

The second reading records the memory of the transfiguration event as a sign that the writer's message is truth, being an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry. We are also witnesses as God transforms us into the likeness of Christ.

Today the Church uses the Easter word "Alleluia" for the last time until the resurrection is proclaimed at the Great Vigil of Easter. In many churches, the ancient "farewell to Alleluia" hymn (Alleluia, song of gladness, Hymn 122 or 123, *The Hymnal 1982*) is sung at the conclusion of the service today. "Alleluia" is omitted from the liturgy throughout Lent in order that its restoration at Easter will underscore our experience of renewal on that day.

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

February 23, 2020

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

Sans memorial



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in Memory of
Douglas Fink by his wife Lillian and his daughters and their families*

And

*In honor of our Granddaughter Allyson Heim's Leap year birthday
By Grandma and Grandpa Spieth*

ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m.
Arista-Care	1st Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
The Arbors	2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
The Pines	3rd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
Crestwood Manor	4th Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m.