



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. 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.



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(Morning Prayer)



Hymnal MORNING PRAYER

304 Processional: "I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord"

Opening Sentence

Confession of Sin

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Venite

Psalm 138

First Lesson: **Isaiah 51:1-6**

Canticle 9

Second Lesson: **Romans 12:1-8**

Canticle 13

Gradual: *Word of God Speak*

The Holy Gospel: **Matthew 16:13-20**

Sermon: *Susan L. Clarke, M. Div.*

Apostles' Creed

Offertory

Solo

THE PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

Suffrages "A"

Collect for the day

Prayers of the People: **Form III**

The General Thanksgiving

Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

Concluding Prayer

Announcements

522 Recessional: "Glorious Things Of The Are Spoken"

Dismissal

BCP

79

80

82

Insert

Insert

86

Insert

90

Insert

96

97

97

387

101

102

102

*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

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.

OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday September 14th, after the Healing Service

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, September 11th @10 AM

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, September 25th @ 10am.

STEWARDSHIP MEETING

Will be held on Sunday, September 3rd, after the 10am service.

PUBLIC RELATIONS MEETING

Set for Sunday, September 17th, after the 10am service

UTO INGATHERING AND ANNUAL MEETING

The Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting and UTO Ingathering has a date and location change. It will be held on Saturday, October 21 at 10AM at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Beach Haven. The Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson, the UTO Co-Chair will be our host. Bishop Sally will be attending this in person event. This is where the \$ from the Blue Boxes is collected. The UTO (Blue Boxes) will be in the Narthex after the Fair. More details will follow.



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

The Healing Light of Christ Chapter of



THE INTERNATIONAL
ORDER of ST. LUKE
— THE PHYSICIAN —

“Healing Mission”

Saturday, September 16th 2023
St Stephen’s Episcopal Church
367 Rt 9, Waretown, NJ

Mission Leader
Fr. Lockner

For mor info contact Corinne Cromwell at 732-849-0153 and Michele Sieling at 609-339-1771

The Atlantic Convocation

A Healing Service

Open your heart to receive God's love and experience His healing power on a profound level. This service provides an environment where you can encounter the healing touch of the Divine Physician.

Wednesday, September 13, at 6pm.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Sanctuary
180 Rt 539, Whiting NJ
Refreshments will be served

SAVE THE DATE For Operation Christmas Child

It’s hard to believe, but the Fall is right around the Corner. Shoeboxes and written material have been ordered from Samaritan’s Purse. They will be available in September for those who wish to participate by filling one or more Shoeboxes for needy children in the USA and around the world.



School supplies are out and needed for all children. The items like notebooks, markers, pencils, sharpeners are all on sale for back to school so this is a good time to collect items.

A complete list of items needed will be available soon.

Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever... *Amen.*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 51:1-6

“Hearken to me, you who pursue deliverance,
you who seek the Lord;
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were digged.

Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for when he was but one I called him,
and I blessed him and made him many.

For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

“Listen to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go forth from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

My deliverance draws near speedily,
my salvation has gone forth,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die like
gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Psalm 138

Confitebor tibi

- 1 **I** will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- 2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;
- 3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.
- 4 When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.
- 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 6 They will sing of the ways of the LORD, *
that great is the glory of the LORD.
- 7 Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.
- 8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
- 9 The LORD will make good his purpose for me; *
O LORD, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.



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  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

ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

Saturday, September 2nd, from 8am-12pm, will be our annual Flea Market at St. Stephen's. We will be accepting items until August 31st. Please leave items on tables by area, not on stage, of foyer for safety reasons. gently used and new items such as household items, small furniture, crafts, collectables, tools, linens, electronics. Not in the entrance or foyer for safety reasons.

Questions call the office at 732-350-2121



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month– September 14th, 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 will be on September 14th at 12:30pm. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.

Stewardship Meeting

Will be held on Sunday, September 3rd, after the 10am service.

Public Relations Meeting

Set for Sunday, September 17th, after the 10am service

(Rescheduled date)



At St Stephen's on Wednesday September 13th at 10am. The cost is \$25. The \$ is due on the day of the class. The instructional materials are from the American Heart Association and we will practice on CPR dummies. Contact Stefanie at (732) 350-2904 if you plan to come. 6-30 people may participate.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him. For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.



Welcome to St. Stephen's

Today we reach a watershed moment in Jesus ministry as recounted by Matthew. Jesus asks his disciples who the people and they believe he is. It is Simon Peter who replies, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Peter's leadership of the church is affirmed by Jesus, even though Peter will show a lack of certainty in his confession later.

Just as Simon Peter was called "the Rock" (in Greek, *Petros*), so in the Hebrew scriptures Abraham and Sarah are the rock from which the people of God are hewn. From them comes a people for whom God provides a joyous salvation.

As we continue to read through Paul's Letter to the Romans, we reach the end of several chapters in which Paul seeks to develop a theology which explains how God acts. Paul now exclaims that God is still beyond the reach of our intellectual processes. His theology moves in the highest of all theological forms, a liturgical prayer of praise.

All our attempts to explain our faith—from Peter's faltering faith to Paul's complex theology—rest on the encounter we have, as a people, with God. That encounter leads always into the symbolic, the metaphorical, and the sacramental expressions of Christian worship. Our most profound theological expression is this action of Word and Sacrament, of story, song, meal, and bath, which is at the center of our worship.

Serving in the Liturgy today:

August 27, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	Linda Chiappetta
LEM 8:00 am	
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Linda Chiappetta
Ushers 8:00 am	Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:00 am	Ricky Minnix
LEM 10:00 am	
Altar Guild 10:00am	Beverly Larson, Karen Mauro
Ushers 10:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

Sanctuary Candle

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

In Honor of

*In Thanksgiving for
100 years of Blessings*

Marjorie Redfern - 100th Birthday

(Aug 17, 2023)

Altar Flowers

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

In Memory of

*Harry Tomkins, Kathy Molnar & Judy
DeYoung by Ruth Molnar*

