



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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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.



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 12

AND WE KNOW THAT IN
ALL THINGS
GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD
OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM,
WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED
ACCORDING TO HIS
PURPOSE.

ROMANS 8:28

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

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–1:30pm for more info
(732) 350-2121

VISITING CLERGY

On Sunday, August 6, we will welcome the Rev. Karen Mitchell to celebrate at both of our services while Fr. Paul is on vacation. On Sunday, August 20, we will welcome the Rev. Mark Van Sant to celebrate at both services. while Fr. Paul is on vacation. On Sundays, August 13, and 27, Stefanie Bodine will conduct the service of Morning Prayer, with Susan Clarke as our preacher, and Bill Bodine on tech. We hope you will join us in-person or online. We also hope to have guest soloists at the offertory, as well as coffee hour after each service. COME AND SEE!

ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

Saturday, September 2nd, at 8am-12pm, will our annual Flea Market here at St. Stephen's. Starting in August, we will be accepting items. Please bring in gently used and new items such as household items, small furniture, crafts, collectables, tools, linens, electronics. Please leave items on our Parish Hall Stage, across from the kitchen. Not in the entrance or foyer for safety reasons. Questions call the office at 732-350-2121 (More details to come)

Collect of the Day

Ⓢ God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 first book of Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” And Solomon said, “Thou hast shown great and steadfast love to thy servant David my father, because he walked before thee in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward thee; and thou hast kept for him this great and steadfast love, and hast given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. Give thy servant therefore an understanding mind to govern thy people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to govern this thy great people?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

Psalm 119:129-136

Mirabilia

- 129.** Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- 130.** When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.
- 131.** I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.
- 132.** Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.
- 133.** Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- 134.** Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.
- 135.** Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.
- 136.** My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law



A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.



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

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.**



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month— August 10th, 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



What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For thy sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Another parable he put before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind; when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

TECH THURSDAY



Tech Thursday meets monthly. Our next meeting will be on August 17. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone that helped Mike and Angel Munson, Michelle Winfrey to create the wonderful dinner that benefitted Fr Paul's Discretionary Fund. The \$ collected was \$1505. If you missed the dinner, you can still contribute to the fund. Put your \$ or check in the blue box at the back of the church. Thank you for your support and consideration.



CPR Class

At St Stephen's on Monday, August 7 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.



Welcome to St. Stephen's

Again this Sunday, as last Sunday, we hear parables of Jesus concerning God's kingdom. The kingdom is characterized as hidden, yet being revealed; as small now, but destined to grow large; as so precious that those who discover it will give all in order to attain it; as open to all who will accept it.

The first reading, from 1 Kings, is Solomon's prayer asking God for wisdom. It was Solomon's desire for wisdom rather than riches and power which revealed him as a righteous king. This is a prefiguring of God's kingdom in which all of God's people are a royal priesthood, enlightened by the spirit and wisdom of God.

Our continued reading of the Epistle to the Romans is leading to Paul's great outburst of praise and assurance of the certainty of God's love for us. Here Paul is certain that even our weakest and most elementary striving toward God is proof that God is leading us and has destined us for glory.

The church is not the kingdom of God. It is, in the words of Alexander Schmemmann, the world in the process of becoming the kingdom. When we gather to celebrate, our movement toward the kingdom is revealed. We are reconstituted as the church, and we discover ourselves growing toward the kingdom.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 1998 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

Serving in the Liturgy today:

July 30, 2023

Lector 8:00 am	Richard Smithson
LEM 8:00 am	Joann Smithson, Richard Smithson
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Linda Chiappetta
Ushers 8:00 am	Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:00 am	Ricki Minix
LEM 10:00 am	Susan Clarke, Bob Virtue, Bill Bodine
Altar Guild 10:00am	Valerie Thompson
Ushers 10:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

Sanctuary Candle

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

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

*In Memory of
Carol Torres
by Fr. Paul and Priscilla Van Sant*

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
Stephen Casale
by Joseph Graff*

*In Memory of
Harry Tomkins, Kathy Molnar & Judy
DeYoung by Ruth Molnar*

*In Memory of
Stephen Casale
by Benedetto & Christina Casale*

