

## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759

Phone: 732-350-2121, Fax: 732-350-6000

ssechurch@gmail.com

www.ststephenswhitingnj.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 —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.

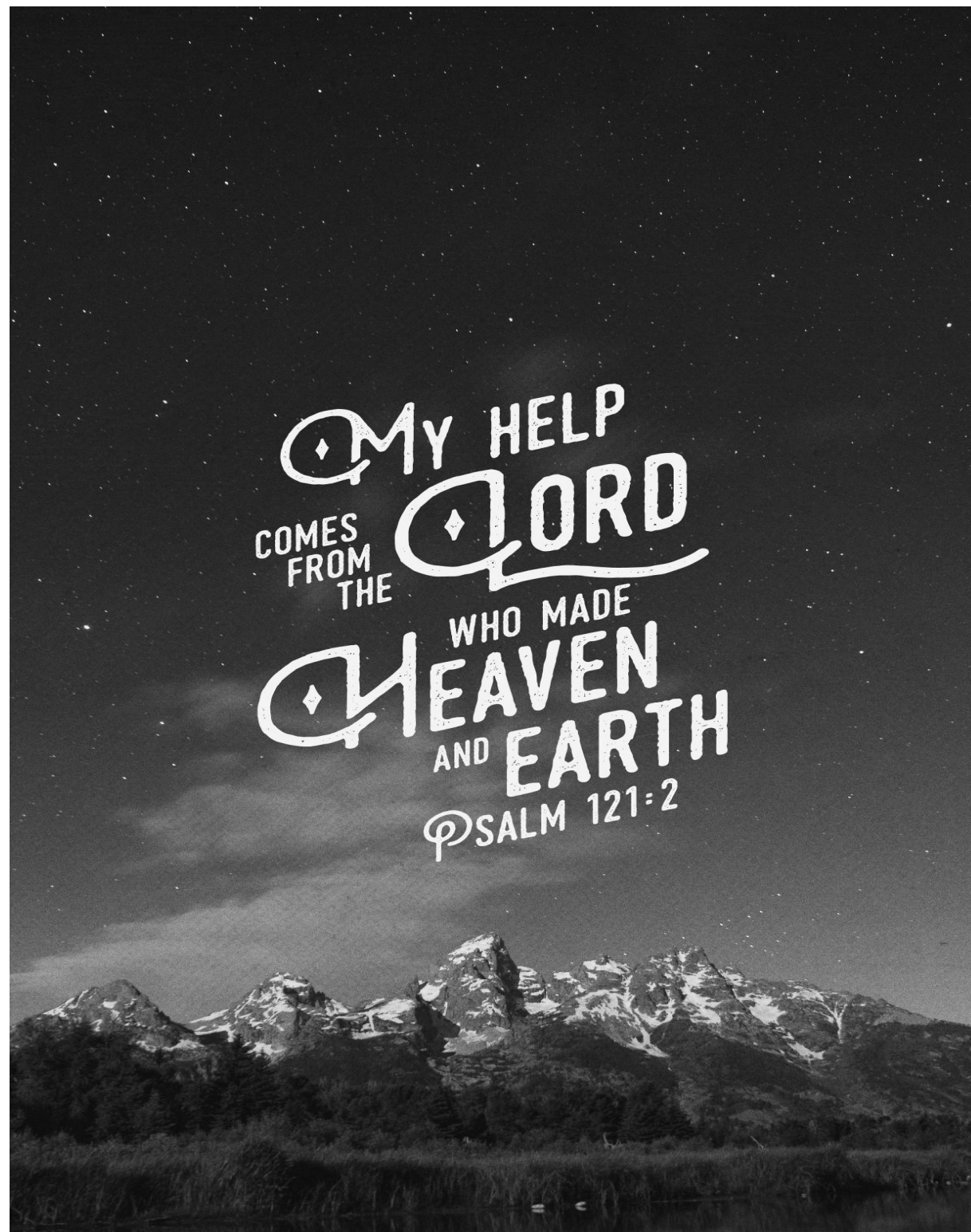
### To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.

**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.



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I  
Hymnal

The Word of God

MARCH 8, 2020

	Opening Acclamation	319
	The Decalogue	
	Opening Sentence	
	Confession and Absolution	320
S91	Kyrie	324
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Book of Genesis 12:1-4a</i>	Insert
	<i>Psalms 121</i>	Lenten Booklet
	Second Lesson: <i>Letter to the Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</i>	Insert
	Gradual Verse	Lenten Booklet
	Gospel: <i>John 3:1-17</i>	Insert
	Sermon — The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.	
	The Nicene Creed	327
	Prayers of the People	328
	The Peace	332
	Announcements	
	Offertory Anthem:	
	Doxology: "All things come of thee O Lord"	
	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	
	Eucharistic Prayer I	333
S112	Sursum Corda	
S113	Sanctus	
	The Lord's Prayer	336
S152	Breaking of the Bread	337
S157	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
	<i>"I Come with Joy"</i>	Insert
	<i>"Shine, Jesus, Shine"</i>	Insert
	Post Communion Hymn <i>"Sweet Jesus"</i>	Insert
	Post Communion Prayer	339
	Blessing	688
	Recessional: <i>"Here I am, Lord"</i>	Insert
	Dismissal	

Second Sunday in Lent

MARCH 8, 2020

Serving in the Liturgy today:

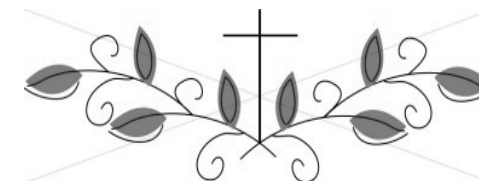
Lector 8:00 AM	Greta Pearl
LEM 8:00 AM	Jo Ann Smithson
Altar Guild 8:00 AM	Mary Storey, Betty Carino, Debbie Fisher
Ushers 8:00 AM	Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine, Peter Quigley
Lector 10:00 AM	Sam Mauro
LEMs 10:00 AM	Richard Woods, Bill Bodine
Altar Guild 10:00 AM	Pat Russo, Ann Solaequi
Ushers 10:00 AM	Joe Orsita, Laura Gural

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF

March 8, 2020 - March 14, 2020

Today	Holy Eucharist	8:00 am & 10:00 am
	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
	<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
Thursday	Healing Service	10:00 am
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.



## Memorials

### In Memory of:

Stanley Joy

Glenda Roedell

Barry Youmans

### Donated by:

Alphred J. and Tracey  
Brenner

Linda Demas

Dottie Strohm



## 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

## Second Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2020

### Collect of the Day

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.  
*Amen*

### First Reading

*Book of Genesis 12:1-4a*

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

### A couple of reminders.....

- **Come to Bible Study on Tuesday, March 3rd at Noon and again at 5:00 for Soup & Study. Our topic will be "Women of the Bible"**
- **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**
- **Fellowship & Fundraising Committee Meeting-TODAY after 10 am service.**



## Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

## Second Reading

*Letter to the Romans 4:1-5, 13-17*

What then shall we say about Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, his wages are not reckoned as a gift but as his due. And to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.



### **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.



**EASTER FLOWERS OFFERING** deadline 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*



**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 .

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### STEWARDSHIP

*"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me"*

**John 15:4**

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.



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## Blessing of the Bikes Meeting

Wednesday, March 17, 2020

@ 4 PM



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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**



The promise to Abraham and his descendants, that they should inherit the world, did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants--not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, for he is the father of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations" --in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

### **Holy Gospel**

**John 3:1-17**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can this be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

## Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Today's readings focus on the theme of journey. Whenever we travel, we undergo the pain of leaving behind familiar things and the uncertainty of a new future. In Lent, Christians remember that they are life-long "pilgrims in a strange land," people on a journey into the future that God has prepared for us.

The Old Testament reading tells of the story of Abraham's calling by God, and the beginning of his journey into the Promised Land. In this new and unknown place, God opened up new rivers of grace for Abraham and Sarah. In the second reading, Paul expounds on Abraham as the father of faith and as our ancestor in the faith. The journey begun by Abraham and Sarah is a journey that continues in our lives and a journey begun this Lent by all those among us who seek baptism at Easter.

Nicodemus is also interested in a journey -- the journey into God's Kingdom. Here a leading rabbi comes to discuss God's Word with Jesus, whom he recognizes as a fellow rabbi. John tells us this was Passover season and it was accounted specially blessed for rabbis to discuss God's Word through the night during that season. Jesus reveals the way into God's Kingdom to be a new birth, a birth from heaven (the original text means both) through water and the Holy Spirit.

We gather to support each other in our journey, to pray for those who will be baptized, and to be nourished by Christ in his Word and Sacraments -- they are our food for the journey.

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

March 8, 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  
In Memory of George P. Frey, IV by his mother Joy*

*And*

*In Memory of Fr. John Dewland  
By his daughter Joy Frey*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
In memory of my wife, Doris  
By Sam Peer*

### 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.