

## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759

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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: pvansant@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.

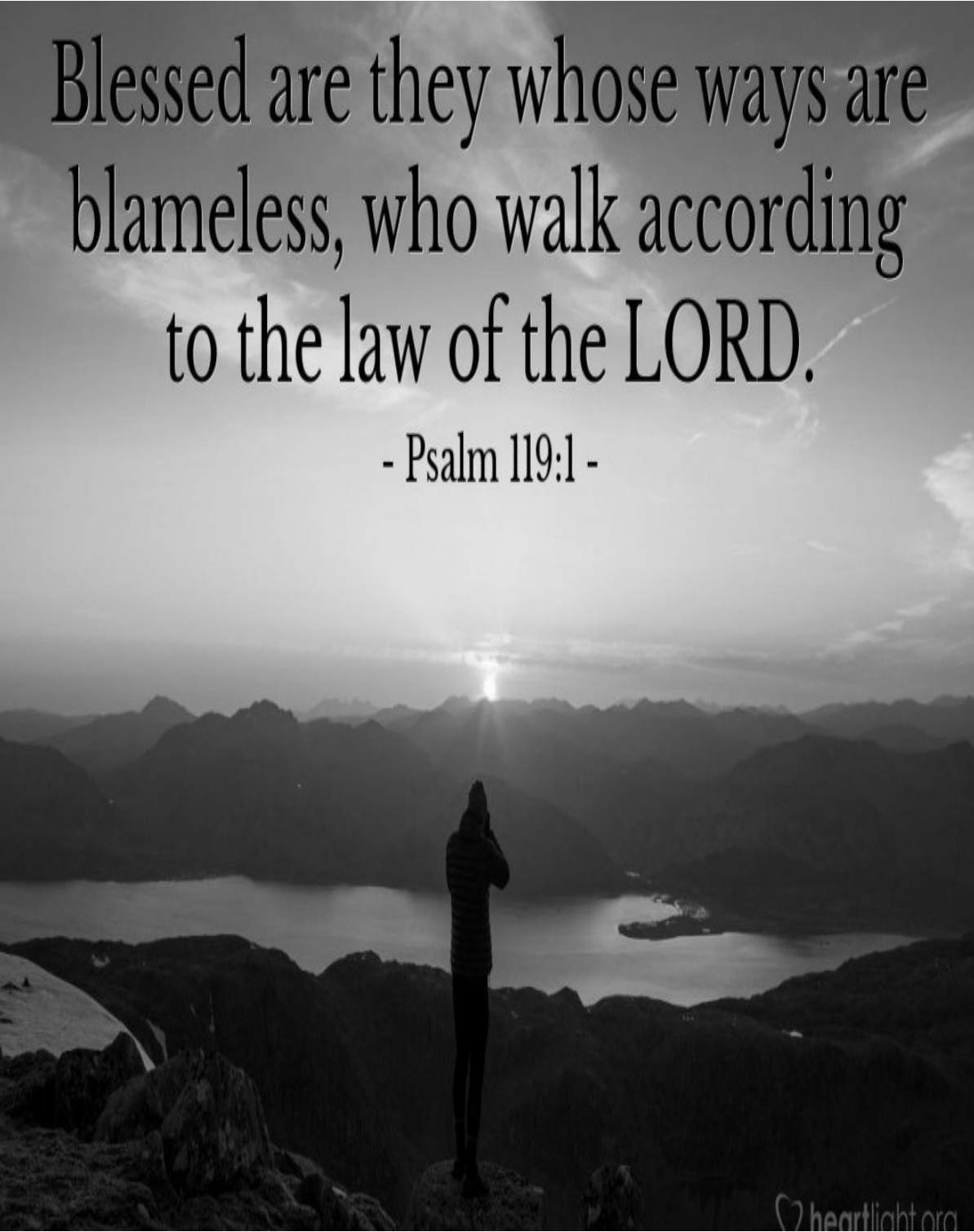
### To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.

**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 Carl Laursen, Rector's Warden at 732-350-1259 or

Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



Blessed are they whose ways are  
blameless, who walk according  
to the law of the LORD.

- Psalm 119:1 -

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
 HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II  
 Hymnal

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

**The Word of God**

419 Processional: “*Lord of all being, throned afar*”  
 Opening Acclamation 355

S102 Trisagion  
 Collect of the Day Insert  
 First Lesson: **Deuteronomy 30:15-20** Insert  
**Psalm 119** Insert  
 Second Lesson: **First Letter to the Corinthians 2:1-16** Insert  
 Gradual: “*Word of God, Speak*” Insert  
 Gospel: **Matthew 5:13-20** Insert

Sermon — The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.  
 PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE  
 Examination of the Candidate  
 The Baptismal Covenant  
 Prayers for the Candidate  
 Thanksgiving over the Water  
 THE BAPTISM  
 Welcoming the newly Baptized  
 The Peace  
 Announcements  
 Offertory Anthem  
 Doxology: “All things come of thee O Lord”

**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:  
 697 “*My God Accept my Heart this Day*”  
 474 “*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*”  
 312 Post Communion Hymn “*Strengthen four Service Lord*”  
 Post Communion Prayer  
 Blessing  
 344 Recessional: “*Lord, Dismiss us*”  
 Dismissal

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 AM	Jo Ann Smithson
LEM 8:00 AM	Bill Bodine
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	Pat Russo
LEMs 10:00 AM	Stefanie Rotsaert, Susan Clarke
Altar Guild 10:00 AM	Carol Cavanaugh, Ann Solaequi
Ushers 10:00 AM	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF

February 16, 2020-February 22, 2020

Today	Holy Eucharist	9:00am
	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
	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>12 noon &amp; 5 pm</b>
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**

**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

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**February 16, 2020**

***Collect of the Day***

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

***First Reading***

***Deuteronomy 30:15-20***

See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you this day, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you this day, that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land which you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him; for that means life to you and length of days, that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

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***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***
- ***Vestry Meeting THIS Monday***
- ***Boy Scout Troop 350 1st Annual Spring Craft and Vendor Fair coming to Saint Stephens March 28th from 9 am—1pm***
- ***Get your own Liturgical calendar for \$3.00***



## Psalm 119

- 1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, \*  
who walk in the law of the LORD!
- 2 Happy are they who observe his decrees \*  
and seek him with all their hearts!
- 3 Who never do any wrong, \*  
but always walk in his ways.
- 4 You laid down your commandments, \*  
that we should fully keep them.
- 5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct \*  
that I might keep your statutes!
- 6 Then I should not be put to shame, \*  
when I regard all your commandments.
- 7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, \*  
when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- 8 I will keep your statutes; \*  
do not utterly forsake me.



## Second Reading

*First Letter to the Corinthians 3:1-9*

But I, brethren, could not address you as spiritual men, but as men of the flesh, as babes in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not ready for it; and even yet you are not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving like ordinary men? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apol'los," are you not merely men? What then is Apol'los? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apol'los watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are equal, and each shall receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Mark your  
calendar

A stylized illustration of a hand holding a pen, positioned as if writing on a calendar. The text "Mark your calendar" is written in a cursive font above the hand.

## **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 URGENT 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.

COME JOIN OUR  
**BIBLE**  
Study

An illustration of an open Bible with a mug of coffee next to it. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the coffee mug is filled with a beverage and has a small flame or steam rising from it. The text "COME JOIN OUR BIBLE Study" is written in a stylized font above the illustration.

A six-week bible study has begun and will continue on each Thursday beginning at noon and again at 5 p.m. We will be studying "*The Names of Jesus*" Looking forward to Lent, we will study "*Women of the Bible.*"

**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**

*“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that form the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ”*

*Colossians 3:23-24*

**Flower Memorials**

<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Donated by</u>
Joan Axon	Al & Val Thompson
Frances Barton	Al & Val Thompson
John Fazekas	Lois Talarowski
Stan Joy	Sandy Gaskill
Stan Joy	Lois Talarowski
Stan Joy	Al & Val Thompson
Stan Joy	Walter Marx
Stan Joy	Joseph & Elizabeth Scott
Glenda Roedell	Al & Val Thompson
Gkenda Roedell	Judy Anderson
Glenda Roedell	Luke Bartal

**Way of Saint Paul**

God has a plan that can grow us so strong that we will have victory whenever stress comes. It is all about integrating the inner person with the outer person. The center piece of that plan is to build up the inner person to a position of strength. Outward stresses affect us most when we have not spent enough time strengthening the inner self by concentrating on the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your friend in Christ,  
Lillian Fink



***Holy Gospel***

*Matthew 5:21-37*

"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. "Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.



## Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Again, we hear a portion of the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew's gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of Moses. In today's reading, Jesus speaks of various requirements of the Law. Those who live in his Way will follow the Law inwardly, not simply outwardly. Jesus' own relationship to God as God's Child is revealed in his teaching our relationship as children of God given to us in baptism grows through the way of living he taught.

The first reading from Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) is perhaps the clearest statement on human freedom of choice in the Hebrew Scriptures. This passage alone would seem to suggest that everyone can do that which is right unhindered by sin. This passage needs the corrective supplied by today's gospel reading that makes it clear that we are still dependent upon God's gracious assistance if we are to carry out the inward obedience that Jesus commands.

In the second reading, Paul continues to seek to deal with division in the Corinthian church between cliques loyal to him and those loyal to Apollos. His approach is to suggest that each member of the body is essential and it is God alone who is building up the church through the varied ministries we are given. The liturgy is this truth about our life in the church, as each of us has a role to play and all of our individual liturgical actions and words combine to make the work of the people of God.

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

February 16, 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*

*Billy Peach*

### 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.