

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

Gerianne Murphy Treasurer

Sandra Gaskill, Assistant Treasurer

Esther Graham, Music Minister

Colleen Clover, Parish Administrator

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Wardens and Vestry 2019

Carl Laursen, Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

Jack Brown, Laura Gural, Tom Larson

Lillian Fink, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley

Pat Russo, Randy Walton, Dottie Kaster

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.



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
Hymnal

The Word of God

	Opening Acclamation	319
102	Processional: <i>“Once in royal David’s city”</i>	
	Patriotic Hymn: 714 v 4	
	Opening Sentence	
	Confession and Absolution	320
S280	Gloria	
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Book of Jeremiah 31:7-14</i>	Insert
	<i>Psalm 84</i>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <i>Letter to the Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a</i>	Insert
	Gradual: <i>“Word of God, Speak”</i>	Insert
	Gospel: <i>Matthew 2:1-12</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: <i>“All things come of thee O Lord”</i>	
	HOLY COMMUNION	
	The Great Thanksgiving	
	Eucharistic Prayer B	367
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
	The Lord’s Prayer	336
S152	Breaking of the Bread	337
S157	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
79	<i>“O little town of Bethlehem”</i>	
497	<i>“How bright appears the morning Star”</i>	
	Post Communion Hymn <i>“A Baby Changes Everything”</i> Performed by Anna Van Sant	
	Post Communion Prayer	339
	Blessing	
93	Recessional: <i>“Angels from the realms of Glory”</i>	
	Dismissal	

JANUARY 5, 2020

8 & 10 am
BCP

Second Sunday After Christmas

Serving in the Liturgy today:

JANUARY 5, 2020

Lector 8:00 AM	Greta Pearl
LEM 8:00 AM	Richard 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	Valerie Thompson
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

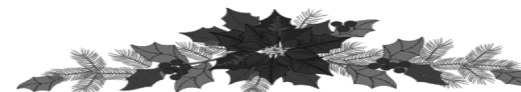
CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF

January 5, 2020-January 11, 2020

Today	Holy Eucharist	8:00 & 10:00am
	AA Meeting	8:00 pm
Monday	Office Open	9:00 am—2:00 pm
	<i>Chapel Chime Articles are due</i>	
Tuesday	Closed AA Meeting	2:00 pm
Wednesday	Closed AA Meeting	3:00 pm
	<i>Choir Practice</i>	10:00 am
Thursday	Healing Service	10:00 am
Friday	Pineland Symphonic Band	9:30 am
	<i>Annual Meeting reports are due</i>	
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.



Annual Meeting

Our annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

There will be only one service held that day at 9 AM.

The meeting will take place immediately following that service.

We request that all Committee Chairs submit their reports to Sandy Gaskill

by

Friday, January 10, 2020.

You may submit hard copies of reports or send them via email to

ssechurch.assisttr@gmail.com



A couple New Year reminders.....

- *Pick up your 2020 collection envelopes for your convenience*
- *Please submit your 2019 receipts to Gerianne by January 12th.*
- *If you are running for the Vestry or any office, convocation, convention, or committee, let Sandy Gaskill know as soon as possible.*
- *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.*



Second Sunday After Christmas

January 5, 2020

Collect of the Day

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Book of Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'The LORD has saved his people, the remnant of Israel.' Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her who is in travail, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I am a father to Israel, and E'phraim is my first-born. "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands afar off; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.' For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. Then shall the maidens rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, says the LORD."

Psalm 84

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.



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 Fall/Winter 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.

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

"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; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness"

Romans 12:6-8



A New Year of Prayer *A poem*

Just close your eyes
And open your heart,
You'll feel your worries
And your troubles part.

Just yield yourself
To the Lord above,
And let Him hold you
Safe in His love.

For He only asks us
To give our best,
Then He will take over
And finish the rest.

So when you are tired
And worn out with care,
Just open the doorway
To a New Year of prayer!



Second Reading

Letter to the Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

*'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Today we continue to celebrate the entrance of the Son of God into the world.

The Gospel tells of the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt to escape Herod's attempt to kill the infant Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, from which this story is taken, Jesus' life is regarded as the fulfillment of the history of Israel. The author sees Jesus as recapitulating the story of the people of Israel in their exile to Egypt and return to the land of promise.

The Old Testament reading foretells the coming of God's Kingdom, when all peoples will be gathered into God's holy place. The reading from Ephesians tells us that in Christ we have become sons and daughters of God.

As we gather to celebrate in God's presence, we discover ourselves as children of God. As in his child Jesus, in us God comes to dwell in his world. In us, God chooses to reveal his truth, confounding the wisdom of this world. By baptism, we are adopted as children of God. In the Eucharist, our relationship to God is affirmed and revealed. God continues to come into his world and has chosen us as his primary instruments to reveal his coming.

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

January 5, 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 my son George Fry's Birthday by his mother Joy,
And In memory of Joy's sister, Terry Borst who passed away January 2, 2020
In Memory of my father Charles Rotsaert's Birthday, by Daughter Stefanie*



The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God

*In Honor of our son Eric Spieth's birthday by his parents,
Fred and Janet Spieth*

ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month at 9:30 am
Arista-Care	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