

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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www.saintstephenswhiting.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
Gerrie Vergona, Treasurer
Esther Graham, Music Director
Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator
Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Wardens and Vestry 2021

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden
Richard Smithson, Property Warden
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley
Pat Russo, Maryann Payne, Dottie Kaster
Kay Karlick, Tom Larson, Ken Seda
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.

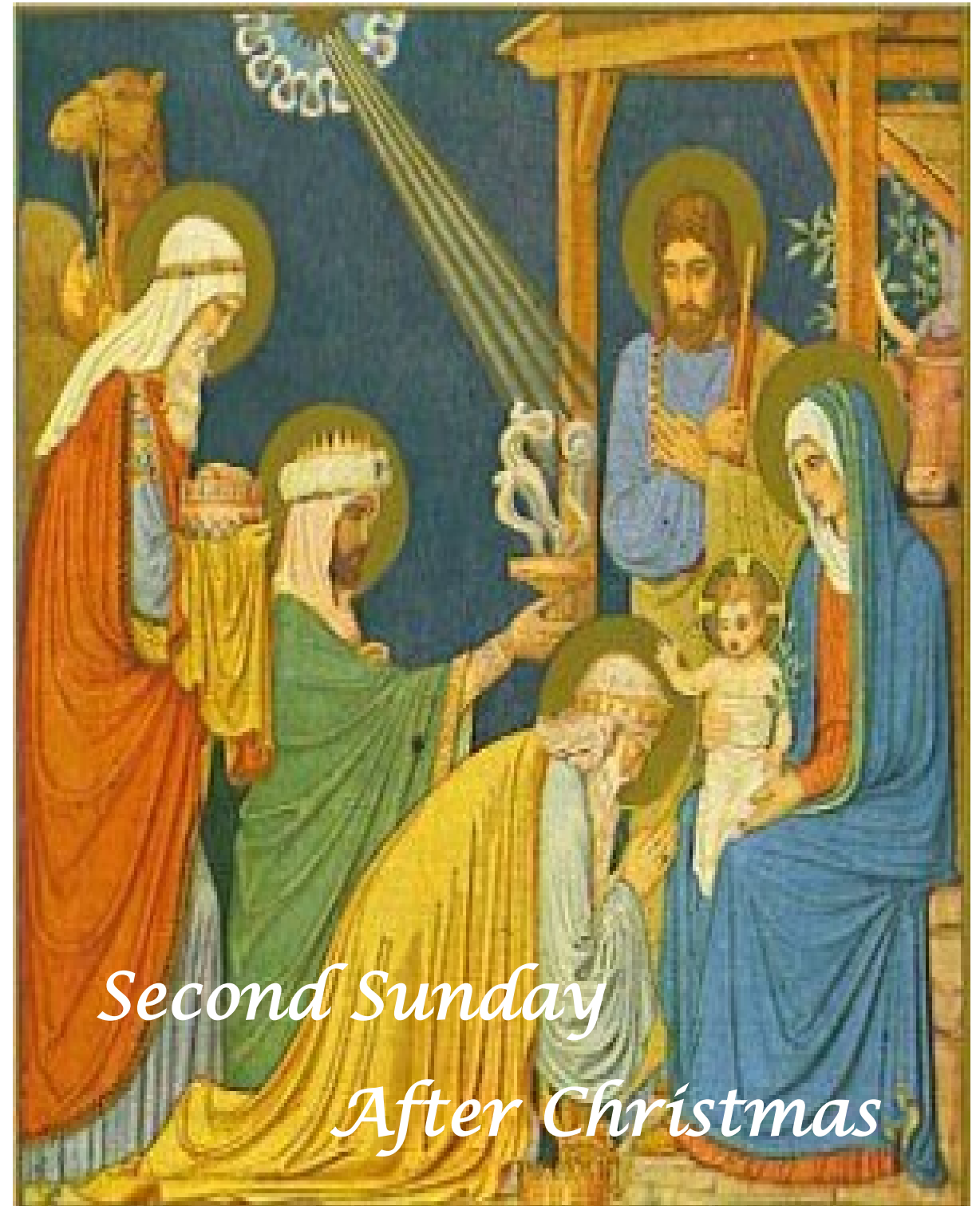
"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20

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.



Second Sunday
After Christmas

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

Hymnal

The Word of God

**JANUARY 2, 2022
8 & 10:15 am
BCP**

102	Processional Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City"	
717	"My Country, 'Tis Of Thee"	
	Open Acclamation	355
	Opening Sentence	
S280	Gloria!	356
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14	Insert
	Psalm 84	Insert
	Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a	Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God Speak" (lyrics on next page)	
	Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
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S157	Fraction Anthem	
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325	"Let Us Break Bread Together"	
79	"Oh Little Town of Bethlehem"	
437	"How Bright Appears the Morning Star"	
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	Blessing	
93	Closing Hymn: "Angels From the Realms of Glory"	
	Dismissal	

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY GROUP-

"The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart", Mondays at 11am, for info contact Roberta Mackey at (917) 696-6863

CHOIR PRACTICE-

Wednesdays at 10am

HEALING SERVECES-

Thursdays at 10:00 am

ORDER OF ST. LUKE-

2nd Thursday of each month after Healing Service

VESTRY MEETING-

Monday, January 24th & 10am

WHITING GARDEN CLUB -

Whiting Garden Club meets next on February 2 at 10AM in the Parish Hall

DO YOU NEED A PLEDGE CARD?

Please see our Treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.



ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

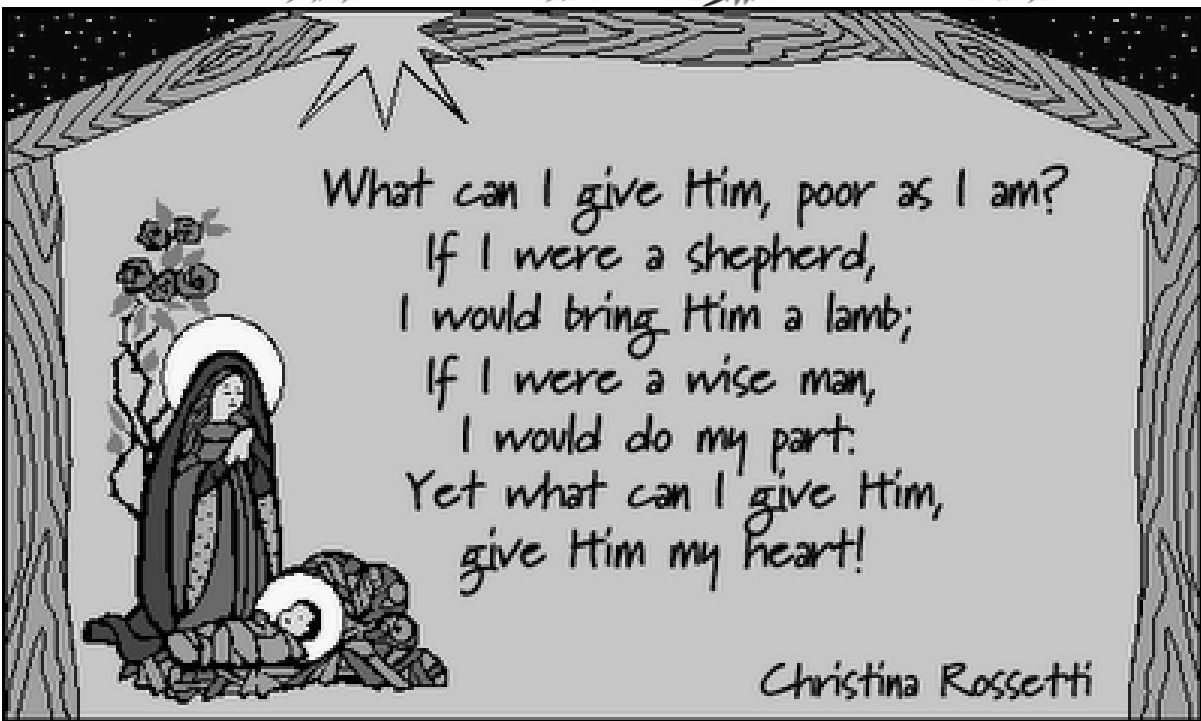
Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. Compline is now on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** at 7PM on **YouTube** and **Zoom**. All are welcome!

COME AND SEE!!!



ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 30, 2022 - 1 service at 9AM Meeting follows
Still needed - 2 delegates to Convention, and 1 Vestry Member -- See Stefanie if you are willing to serve or have any questions



Second Sunday After Christmas

*January 2, 2022
8 & 10:15am*

Collect of the Day

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the
north, and gather them from the farthest parts of
the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child
and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a 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;

Jeremiah 31:7-14

their life shall become like a watered
garden, and they shall never
languish again.

Then shall the young women 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 give the priests their fill of
fatness, and my people shall be
satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

Word of God speak;

Would You pour down
like rain

Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty

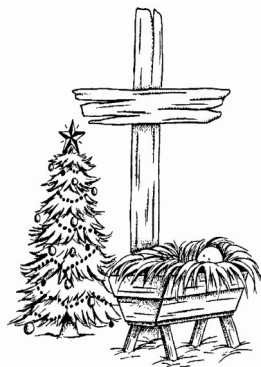
To be still and know
That You're in this place
Please let me stay and
rest

In Your holiness

Psalm 84

Quam dilecta!

- 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.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **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. Our Summer 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 ~ 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 609/268-0821.

THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD IS IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOU TO SIGN~ Cards and postage cost so much these days--sign your name and write a message to your church family

COFFEE HOUR



help wanted

A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2022 - 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





BLACKJACK NEEDS OUR HELP

Hi my name is Phyllis, my adopted shelter dog Blackjack is in very much need of dental work. I live solely on social security and need this financial help. He's a dog that gave up on life, I adopted him, I trained him myself, he is now a state certified therapy dog and has his k-9 good citizenship award...he is kind and gentle and has helped many people...thank you for your help...God Bless You...

Please visit the link provided below to support a good cause and help Blackjack with his much needed dental work. There is a basket on the back table in the church for your cash donation. Phyllis appreciates your help-- and so does Blackjack!

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-blackjack-with-dental-work/share?qid=c112c9>

Sincerely,

Miss Phyllis

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 from this valued fund. If you wish to contribute, please use the basket on the back table for donations



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--January 13th, 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
The Arbors 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 pm
The Pines 3rd Monday of each month at 2:00 pm



Second Reading

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, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for 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.



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26, 2022



Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	<i>JoAnn Smithson</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Richard Smithson</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Debbie Fisher</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:15 am	<i>Michael Munson</i>
LEM 10:15 am	<i>Susan Clarke</i>
Altar Guild 10:15 am	<i>Ann Solaequi, Linda Chiappetta</i>
Ushers 10:15 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

On this first Sunday after Christmas, our attention is directed by the readings beyond the historical event of Jesus' birth to its cosmic and saving meaning. The Gospel reading is the theological prologue to the Gospel of John. This early Christian poem describes Jesus as the incarnation (en-fleshment) of the divine Word who is one with God, through whom God creates and redeem the world. It also expresses our unity with God by grace and faith. Thus, the birth of Jesus is not simply an event in his story but the event of our lives too.

The first reading today promises the reestablishment of God's people in His Kingdom. The prophet sees this as a certainty; in other words, it is an integral part of God's plan of salvation. The reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians is a portion of Paul's proclamation that in the new covenant our relationship to God is based on faith rather than obedience to the Law. Paul replaces the source of that new relationship in our unity through baptism with Jesus, which makes us sons, and daughters of God.

This Sunday's theme, then, expresses the double role of the Church's liturgy. It usually celebrates historical events, but in our action together as the people of God, the historical events are revealed as eternally saving events as well. In the liturgy, time and space are transcended and the events of history become the events of our own lives as individuals and as a community.

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

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Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is given to
The Glory of God
In Memory of
Loved ones by *Stefanie Bodine*

Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God
In Memory of
Sans Memorial

