



## 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.



# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Second Sunday of Advent

# Peace



***The Second Sunday of Advent***  
***Holy Eucharist Rite I***

***December 10, 2023***  
***8:00 & 10:00 AM***

***Save the Date on Upcoming Events***

***Hymnal***

***THE WORD OF GOD***

***BCP***

|      |  |               |
|------|--|---------------|
| 59   | Processional Hymn: “ <i>Hark the thrilling voice is sounding</i> ” |               |
|      | Opening Acclamation  | 319           |
|      | Opening Sentence   | 320           |
|      | Confession and Absolution  | 320           |
| S-91 | Kyrie  | 324           |
|      | The Collect of the Day   | <i>Insert</i> |
|      | First Lesson: <b><i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i></b>                         | <i>Insert</i> |
|      | <b><i>Psalms 85</i></b>  | <i>Insert</i> |
|      | Second Lesson: <b><i>Peter 3:8-15a,18</i></b>                      | <i>Insert</i> |
|      | Gradual – “ <i>Alleluia, He is coming</i> ”                        | <i>Insert</i> |
|      | The Holy Gospel: <b><i>Mark 1:1-8</i></b>                          | <i>Insert</i> |
|      | Sermon: Fr. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.                                  |               |
|      | The Nicene Creed   | 327           |
|      | Prayers of the People  | 328           |
|      | The Peace  | 332           |
|      | Offertory Anthem:  |               |
|      | Doxology: “ <i>All things come of thee O Lord</i> ”                |               |

***HOLY COMMUNION***

|      |   |     |
|------|---|-----|
|      | Eucharist Prayer I                                    | 333 |
| S112 | Sursum Corda  |     |
| S113 | Sanctus   |     |
|      | The Lord’s Prayer                                     | 336 |
| S152 | Breaking of the Bread                                 | 337 |
| S157 | Agnus Dei   |     |
|      | Communion Hymns:                                      |     |
| 325  | “ <i>Let us Break Bread Together</i> ”                |     |
| 53   | “ <i>Once he came in Blessing</i> ”                   |     |
| 75   | “ <i>There’s a voice in the wilderness crying</i> ”   |     |
|      | Blessing  | 339 |
| 66   | Recessional: “ <i>Come thou long expected Jesus</i> ” |     |
|      | Announcements   |     |
|      | Dismissal   |     |

***Gradual:***

“*Alleluia, He is Coming*”;  
“*Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here*”  
“*Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here*”  
“*I looked up and I saw my Lord a coming*”  
“*I looked up and saw my Lord a coming down the road*”  
“*Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here*”  
“*Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here*”

**WOMANS BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, 1ST & 3RD Mondays at 11am for info contact: *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863 (No Bible Study in December)*

**CHOIR PRACTICE**

Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs.

**HEALING SERVICES**

Join us every Thursday at 10 am for an experience that will help you find comfort, support, and spiritual healing. We welcome everyone with open hearts and look forward to sharing an enriching time with you.

**VESTRY MEETING**

Monday, December 23rd @ 10am.

**WHITING GARDEN CLUB**

No meeting in January. Happy Holidays!

**OSL WILL BE MEETING**

On Thursday December 18th after the Healing Service



**STEWARDSHIP**

We hope to discuss and plan for more great opportunities for the coming year during our

**Stewardship Fire Side Chat on Sunday, Today**

after the 10am service.

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all who contributed to the planning and organizing our events throughout the year with a luncheon. Hope to see you there.

## *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.**

## *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](http://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org)

## **ADVENT FOOD DRIVE**

A list of non-perishable dry, canned and boxed or bagged foods is available in the Narthex with a sign-up sheet for our ADVENT food Drive. Fill your boxes, and if you have loose items, there will be open boxes are in the Church on the back pew for you to fill. Any questions please call 732-350-2121 for info.

All items will be blessed on December 3th at the Altar. Thank you for caring!

## *Advent Bible Study*

Join us for our Advent Bible study on

Wednesday's December 13, 20th at 11am, as we traverse the writings of Magrey R. deVega in his book titled "Awaiting the Already".

Contact the church office for info 732-350-2121

## *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

## *Collect of the Day*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## *A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah 40:1-11*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.



**Psalm 85**

*Benedixisti, Domine*

- 7 **S**how us your mercy, O Lord, \*  
and grant us your salvation.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.



***A reading from the second letter to the Peter 3:8-15a,18***

**B**ut do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.



**CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE** ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **Fall and 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 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.

**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

**Memorial Garden For Pets**

**Keep an eye out for our next Memorial Service Date.**

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



**Quigley's  
Annual Christmas Party**

*Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4<sup>pm</sup>  
2001 Elizabeth Avenue  
Whiting NJ 08759  
RSVP: (732) 547-9712*

**What to bring???**

*For the Cookie Exchange.....Bake 1 Dozen Cookies  
For the Gift Exchange.....A gift valued between \$15-\$20  
Hope to see you there!*



## Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month— December 14th, 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 |



## Christmas Pro AM Bowl-A-Thon

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation and sincere gratitude to Bill Bodine for his exceptional leadership and dedication in chairing our Bowling Ministry. Through his tireless efforts, we have witnessed remarkable achievements that have brought immense joy and camaraderie to our St Stephen's community. Bill's unwavering commitment to the Bowling Ministry has been truly commendable. His passion for the sport and his love for our church have been evident in his every action and decision. He has spent countless hours developing strategies, coordinating events, and ensuring the success of our bowling initiatives. One of Bill's noteworthy accomplishments is the securing of a year-round schedule for the highly anticipated St Stephen's Metro

Challenge and the King of the Hill Tournaments. These tournaments have become staples in our community, bringing together individuals of all ages and skill levels for friendly, spirited competition.

Bill's meticulous planning and coordination with local bowling centers have ensured that participants can indulge in the thrill of open bowling throughout the year.

Under Bill's guidance, the Bowling Ministry has flourished, creating an inclusive and welcoming space for bowlers of all backgrounds. His warm and approachable nature has encouraged new members to join our community and has fostered a sense of belonging among all participants. Through his leadership, Bill has strengthened the bonds within our church, fostering friendships and connections that extend far beyond the bowling lanes.

Today, as we acknowledge Bill Bodine's outstanding contributions, we want him to know how profoundly grateful we are for his unwavering dedication and unyielding passion. The success of the Bowling Ministry and the ongoing enjoyment experienced by our community is a testament to his hard work and selflessness. Bill, your impact on the Bowling Ministry is immeasurable, and we celebrate your achievements wholeheartedly. We thank you for your invaluable role in creating a space where we can gather, compete, and fellowship together. Your service as the chairman of the Bowling Ministry has brought us immeasurable joy and lasting memories.

Thank you, Bill, for your outstanding leadership and ensuring that open bowling is available to us all year!



Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. *Amen.*

## *A reading from the Gospel according to Mark 1:1-8*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight—" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."





## Serving in the Liturgy today:

December 10, 2023

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Lector 8:00 am      | Linda Chiappetta                         |
| LEM 8:00 am         | Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine                |
| Altar Guild 8:00 am | Linda Chiappetta                         |
| Ushers 8:00 am      | Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine |
| Lector 10:00 am     | Valerie Thompson                         |
| LEM 10:00 am        | Bob Virtue, Bill Bodine                  |
| Altar Guild 10:00am | Beverly Larson, Karen Mauro              |
| Ushers 10:00 am     | Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson            |

Today is the first of the two Advent Sundays centered on the ministry of John the Baptist as the Forerunner of the Messiah. We hear Mark's account of the beginning of John's ministry and message. John is described as the last of the Old Testament prophets and the one who embodied the role foreseen by Isaiah

as the messenger to prepare the way for the coming of the Christ. He used the traditional Jewish ceremony of renewal and repentance—Baptism—but promises that the One who is coming will immerse people in the Spirit of God.

Our first reading is the passage from Isaiah quoted by Mark concerning John the Baptist. This comes from the time of the end of the Jewish people's exile in Babylon and was an exhortation to them to return to the land of promise now that they had been freed by the Persian king, Cyrus. This second exodus is filled with the promise of God's love and care for the people.

The second reading, from Peter's second letter, looks toward the end of time. The writer is concerned with how we live in this time in anticipation for the time to come when the Day of the Lord will be revealed.

We live in the time in between Christ's first Advent and his second coming, and we gather in the Eucharist as people immersed by Baptism into God's Spirit. We are called not only to celebrate God's presence as our Shepherd but also to be messengers who,

like John, announce the coming of God's kingdom. We do this by proclaiming the Word, by celebration of God's sacramental presence, and by lives of peace and growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

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

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### Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to  
the Glory of God*

*These flowers are placed*

*In Loving Memory of  
Jaqueline Bodine*

*by Al & Valerie Thompson*

*In Loving Memory of  
Jaqueline Bodine*

*by St. Stephen's Ministry*

*In Loving Memory of  
Jaqueline Bodine*

*by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

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

*In Loving Memory of  
Pat Larson*

*by JoAnn Smithson*

*In Loving Memory of  
Bill, Hope, Kim & Michelle  
by Dottie Kaster*

### Sanctuary Candle

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

*This candle burns*

*In Loving Memory of  
Jaqueline Bodine*

*by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

