



## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759

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

ssechurch@gmail.com

www.saintstephenswhiting.org



### A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Rt. Reverend Dr. Sally J. French, Bishop

The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector

Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator

Geraldine Vergona, Treasurer

Esther Graham, Music Director

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

### Wardens and Vestry 2024

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

Roberta Mackey, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue

Bill Bodine, Blanche Dwonch, Kay Karlick

Tom Larson, Ann Solaequi, Geraldine Vergona

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 of Easter



**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**APRIL 7, 2024  
8 & 10 am**

**Save the Date on Upcoming Events**



<i>Hymnal</i>	<i>The Word of God</i>	<i>BCP</i>
486	Processional Hymn: “ <i>Hosanna to the living Lord</i> ” Easter Acclamation	355
S280	Gloria Collect of the Day First Lesson: <i>Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35</i> <b>Psalm 133</b> Second Lesson: <i>John 1:1-2:2</i> Gradual: “ <i>Word of God, speak</i> ” (Lyrics below) Gospel: <i>John 20:19-31</i>	Insert Insert Insert Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i> The Nicene Creed Prayers of the People Form VI Confession and Absolution The Peace Announcements Offertory Anthem Doxology: “ <i>All things come of thee O Lord</i> ”	Insert  358 392 393

***HOLY COMMUNION***

	Eucharistic Prayer D	372
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S140	Memorial Acclamation The Lord’s Prayer	368 364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S151	Fraction Anthem Communion Hymns:	
325	“ <i>Let us break bread together</i> ”	
199	“ <i>Come Ye Faithful</i> ”	
305	“ <i>Come Risen Lord</i> ”	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
182	Recessional: “ <i>Christ is Alive</i> ” Dismissal	

*Word of God speak  
 Won't 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  
 word of God speak*

**WOMAN’S BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, every other Monday, at 11am for info contact: *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863*

**CHOIR PRACTICE**

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

**HEALING SERVICES (No Service on the 4th of April)**

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.

**OSL**

Our next meeting is April 11th after the 11am healing service

**WHITING GARDEN CLUB**

We will be meeting in Crestwood Village 5 Clubhouse on April 3rd at 10AM as the Church will be closed. (Located at 325 Schoolhouse Rd, Whiting, NJ 08759)

**VESTRY MEETING**

Monday, April 22nd @ 10am.

**Trivia Gathering For Amanda**

Saturday April 20, 2024 @ 2PM  
\$20-Tickets and a 50/50 raffle

**ECW**

Bake-less Bake Sale donations totaled \$318. Thank you to everyone that supported our fundraiser. Your help is appreciated.

**RADA ORDERS**

Contact Joy Frey and use the catalog to order Rada as soon as possible.

**Bowling Ministry**

We are proud and pleased to announce that **Fence Financial** and **The Heritage Restaurant** are sponsors of our upcoming **KOH** tournament at Thunderbowl Lanes Wrightstown NJ!



***CHAPEL CLOTHESLINE*** ~ We are now accepting **SPRING** 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. Please save donations for September Dignified Junk Sale until summer.

Sincerely, Linda Chiappetta

***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.



A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2024 - 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

***Collect of the Day***

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

***A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35***

Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each as any had need.



## Psalm 133

*Ecce, quam bonum!*

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.

### *A Reading from the First letter of John 1:1-2:2*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.



### Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month-- January 11th, 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



**St Stephen's Episcopal Church**

# TRIVIA

*Night For Amanda*

**APRIL 20TH**  
**2PM**

\$20 per ticket  
Proceeds go to Funds  
for Amanda service  
dog, call 732-350-2121  
to purchase

**FOOD AND  
DRINKS  
AVAILABLE**

**50/50  
Raffle**

[www.ststephenswhitingnj.org](http://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org)  
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## *Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws*

Days and Hours of Operation are:

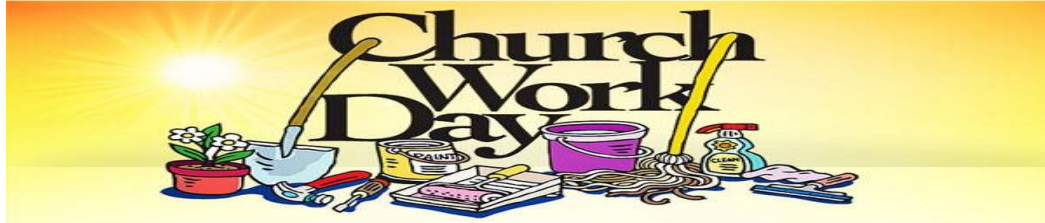
Tuesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

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.**

**It's Your Ch\_rch & u are needed!**



Sign up to help us clean up the church on **Saturday, April 13** from 10AM -3PM. Lunch will be provided. Sign up in the Narthex, or call the office.

Help in the garden, kitchen, parish house or church.

## *TECH THURSDAY*

Tech Thursday meets monthly. Keep an eye out for our new dates to come. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and/or Bill Bodine will be able assist you.

## *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)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

## *A Reading From the Gospel of John 20:19-31*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



*Serving in the Liturgy today:*

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Joann Smithson</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Richard Smithson, Joann Smithson</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Linda Chiappetta</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:00 am	<i>Kay Karlick</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Beverly Larson, Karen Maruo</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

On this Sunday of Easter, we always have as the central reading the account of Jesus' appearance to the apostles on Easter Day and on the following Sunday. In that second appearance Thomas, who had not been with them the first time, comes to believe in the Lord's resurrection and acclaims Jesus as Lord and God.

The preferred reading on every Sunday in Eastertide is from the Acts of the Apostles. This book is about the life of the early church as it lived in the joy of the Lord's resurrection, which gives us a model for our own life in the Body of the risen Lord.

This year the second reading comes from the First Epistle of John. This brief epistle is thought to have been written in the last decade of the first century in the author's old age. In it, he reminds his people of the primary characteristic of our Lord, namely his self-giving love (in the original Greek, *agapé*). Our life in the risen Christ is likewise characterized by that love for one another.

John reminds us that our salvation came by means of Jesus' death and our Baptism into his death. That sharing in the water and the blood brings about the victory which overcomes the world. Each Sunday of the Great Fifty Days is a time to explore the life we share in Jesus Christ's dying and rising, a life which begins for each of us at our Baptism and which is renewed in us each time we celebrate the Eucharist.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. Copyright © 1998 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.*  
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**Sanctuary Candle**  
*The Sanctuary Candle is given to  
 The Glory of God  
 In Memory of Loved ones by Bill and  
 Stefanie Bodine*

**Altar Flowers**  
*Altar Flowers are given to  
 the Glory of God  
 In Memory of Loved ones by Bill and  
 Stefanie Bodine*

