

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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ssechurch@gmail.com
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 2022
Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden
Peter Quigley, Property Warden
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano
Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue
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.

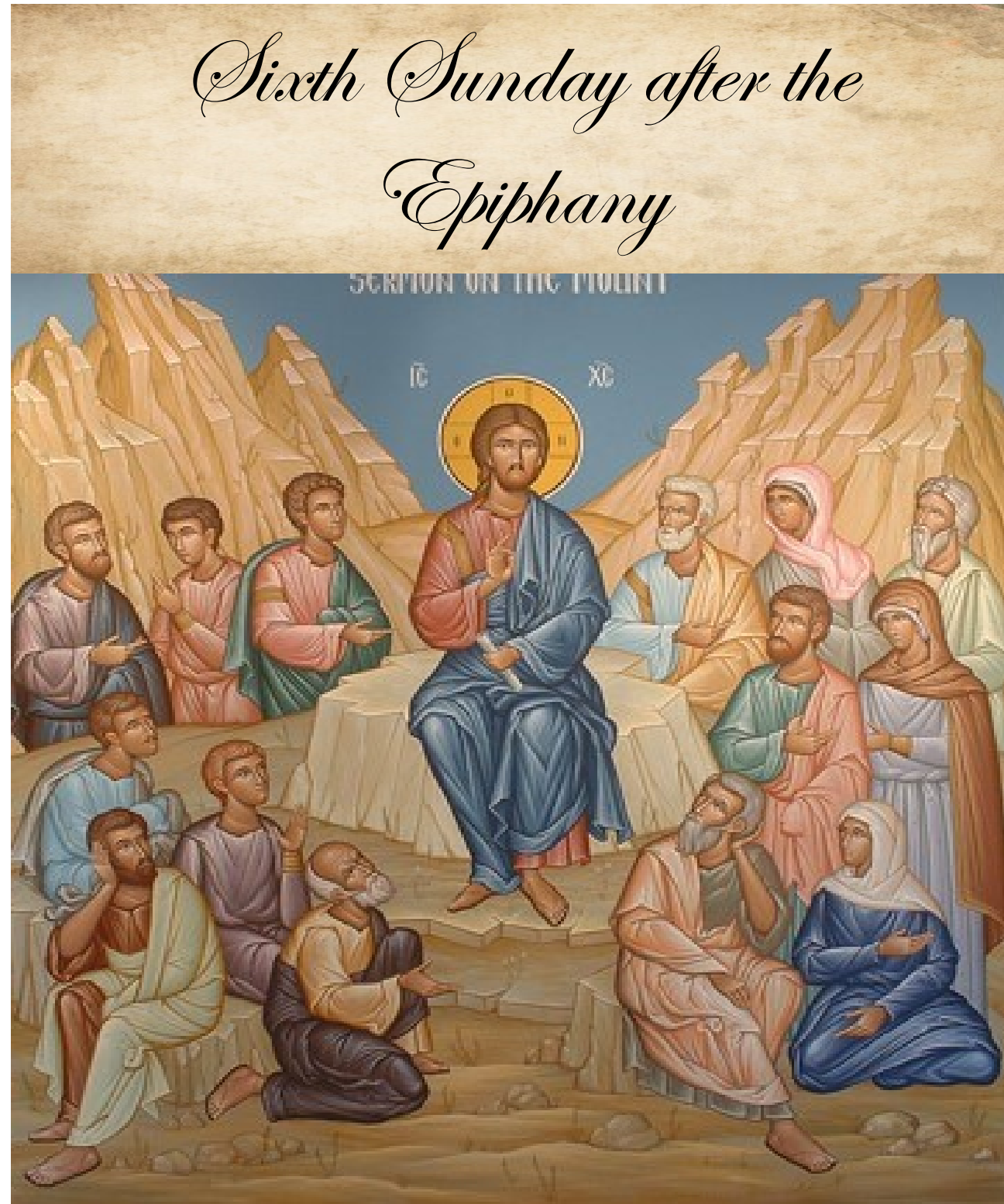
"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20

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.



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Hymnal

The Word of God

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

8 & 10 am

BCP

304	Processional Hymn: “I come with Joy, to meet my Lord”	
	Open Acclamation	355
	Opening Sentence	
S280	Gloria!	356
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Sirach 15:15-20	Insert
	Psalm 119	Insert
	Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Insert
	Gradual: “Word of God Speak” (lyrics below)	
	Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People (Form III)	387
	Confession and Absolution	359
	The Peace	360
	Offertory:	
	Doxology: “All things come of Thee, O Lord”	

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

	Eucharistic Prayer “B”	367
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S136	Memorial Acclamation	368
	The Lord’s Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	364
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	“Let Us Break Bread Together”	
474	“When I survey the wondrous cross”	
594	“God of Grace, and God of Glory”	
	Post Communion Prayer	366
	Announcements	
	Blessing	
344	Closing Hymn: “Lord dismiss us with thy blessing”	
	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*

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am-12:30pm
for info contact : *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863*

CHOIR PRACTICE

10am every Wednesday. Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs.

HEALING SERVICES

Thursdays at 10:00 am

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

2nd Thursday of each month , March 9th - after Healing Service

AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE

There is another course scheduled for **Tuesday March 21, from 9-1pm** in the Parish Hall here at St. Stephen’s Church. Call Stefanie Bodine for more info at 732-278-4846

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, February 13th @10 AM

VALENTINE’S DAY

Tuesday, February 14th from 3-6 pm. \$15 per person or \$25 per couple for dinner, treasure auction, and a night of Fun. B.Y.O.B. or enjoy non-alcoholic beverages provided. For Tickets, contact Barbara Marshall at 732-778-2628

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 21st @ 4-6pm. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, (NO CHARGE)

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, February 27th @ 10am

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!!!

Memorial Garden For Pets

at

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

For all who are looking for a special place to lay your beloved pets to rest.

Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am–2pm for services and more information.

(732) 350-2121

COME ATTEND ONE OF OUR EVENTS

Visit our website at;

<https://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org/new-events>

for more information on upcoming event in and around our community.

A Legacy Summit For Estate & Will Planning

Please join us for a day of will & estate planning for your final expenses on Saturday April 29th from 10am-2pm!

Next Stewardship Meeting

Sunday, March 5th and 19th, after our regular 10 am scheduled services

See Bill Bodine for info and any questions you may have

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.**

Collect of the Day

☪ 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

Sirach 15:15-20

If you choose, you can keep the commandments,
and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice.
He has placed before you fire and water;
stretch out your hand for whichever you choose.
Before each person are life and death,
and whichever one chooses will be given.
For great is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is mighty in power and sees everything;
his eyes are on those who fear him,
and he knows every human action.
He has not commanded anyone to be wicked,
and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

Psalm 119:1-8

Beati immaculate

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

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is an-



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 ~ 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

COFFEE HOUR

help wanted

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

Legacy, Estate and Will planning

With a successful stewardship season behind us now, our focus turns to Legacy, Estate and Will planning which will make stewardship a year round effort! Mark your calendar for next month as the Legacy Team will meet on Saturday April 29th from 10am-2pm in the parish hall! Hall. We encourage and invite anyone who is interested in participating and helping out on the Legacy Team! The objective is to prepare and plan for the St. Stephen's Legacy Summit in the Spring 2023. We are confident for a very strong turnout and a huge plus for the church! Everyone needs this kind of service and opportunity to plan their legacies for themselves and their families.

For further information please contact
Bill Bodine - Legacy Chairman at 848-210-4206.



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--February 9th, after the Healing Service.

Prayer to send out LEMs with the Sacrament:

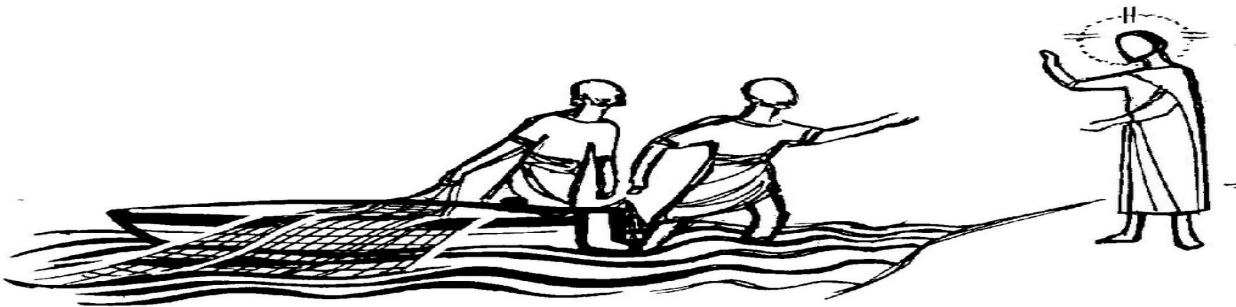
Celebrant: N. we send you out to share Communion this week with those who have been entrusted to your care.

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



Daughters of the British Empire



The (DBE) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit American society of women of British or Commonwealth of Nations birth, heritage or ancestry. We share and promote our heritage while supporting local charities and our senior living facilities across the United States.

To learn more about our local chapter, here in Ocean County, please email *Joan Saunders* – njstateorganizer@gmail.com

anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:21-37

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to 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 anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' 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 your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."



Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Susan Quigley</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>
Lector 10:00 am	<i>Valerie Thompson</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Carol Torres, Bob Virtue, Gerrie Vergona</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

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.

Sanctuary Candle

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

*In Memory of
Virginia Hoyt, by the Woods Family*

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
Virginia Hoyt, by the Woods Family*

