

**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. 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 2023**

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden  
Peter Quigley, Property Warden  
Shelagh Bluni, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano  
Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue  
Bill Bodine, Richard Smithson Kay Karlick  
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.

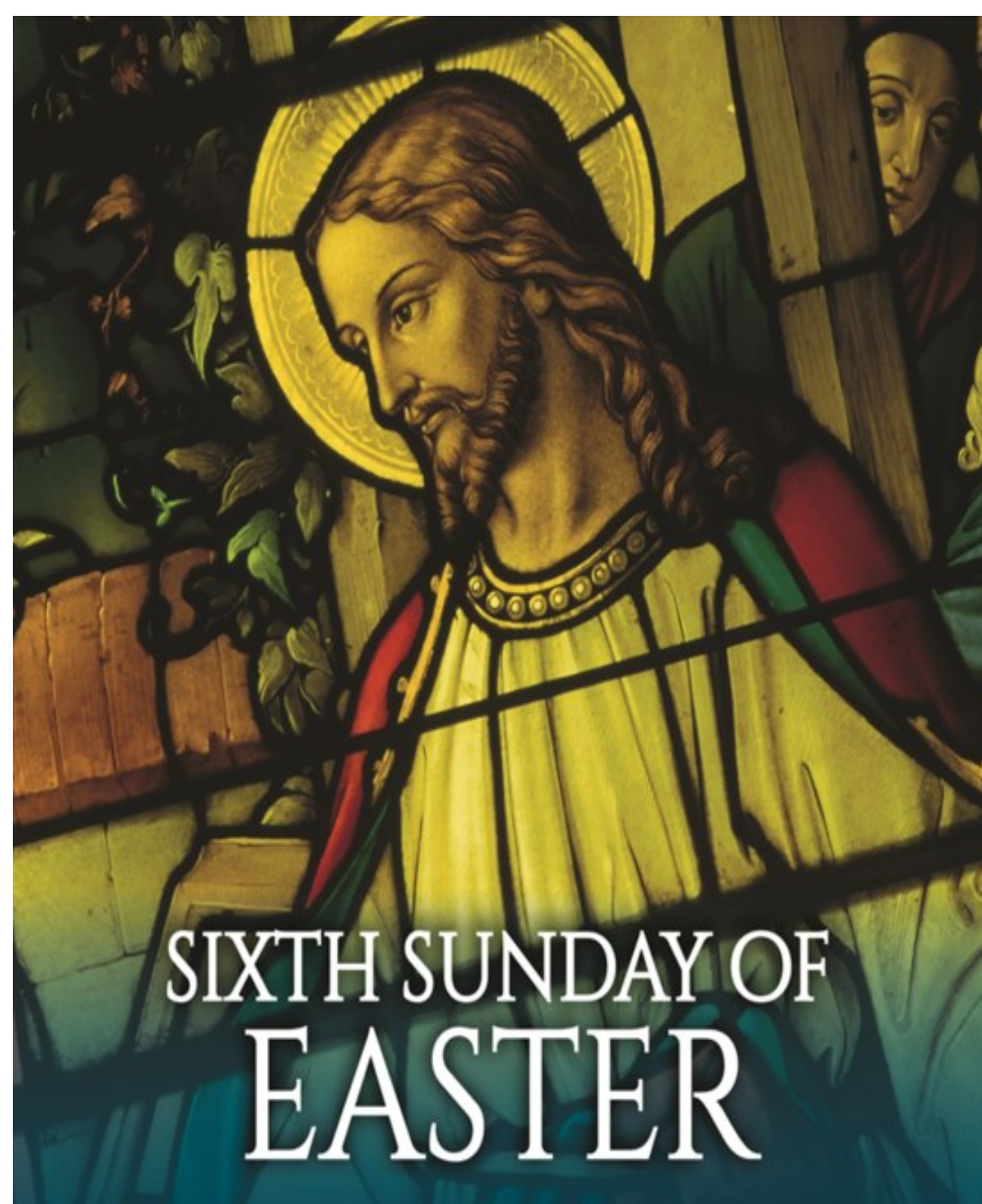
*"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20*

**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.





<i>Hymnal</i>	<i>The Word of God</i>	<i>BCP</i>
561	Processional Hymn: “Come down, O Love Devine” Easter Acclamation	355
S280	Gloria Collect of the Day First Lesson: <i>Acts 17:22-31</i> <b>Psalm 66</b> Second Lesson: <i>1 Peter 3:13-22</i> Gradual: “Word of God, speak” (Lyrics below) Gospel: <i>John 14:15-21</i> Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i> The Nicene Creed Confession and Absolution The Peace Announcements Offertory Anthem Doxology: “All things come of thee O Lord”	Insert Insert Insert Insert Insert  358 393
<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		
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S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
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344	Recessional: “Lord, dismiss us” 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*

**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

**THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

Monday, June 12th @10 AM

**OSL WILL BE MEETING**

On Thursday June 8th, after the Healing Service

**VESTRY MEETING**

Monday, May 22nd @ 10am

**PLEDGE CARDS**

If you filled in a pledge card, your envelopes are in the Narthex on the shelf, right side before you enter the church. If you need envelopes, see our treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

**FAMILY FUN DAY DANCE SPECTACULAR, COMING JUNE 4th!**

We are having an organizational meeting of the family fun day dance spectacular team on **Sunday, May 21st** after the later service in the Parish Hall. If anyone wants to attend to find out what we're planning to do to please come to the meeting. Hope to see you there!

## 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)

## Memorial Garden For Pets

(Remains Only)

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 and more  
(732) 350-2121

## The Bishop's s Gala is sold out.

We will have the zoom connection of the speeches from our Presiding Bishop, our Bishop and Bishop-elect on Sunday, May 21 in our Parish House. Time to be verified soon. See Stefanie if you are interested

## Happy Mother's Day

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." PROVERBS 31:25-26

## *Collect of the Day*

☉ God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever... *Amen.*

## *First Reading*

*Acts 17:22-31*

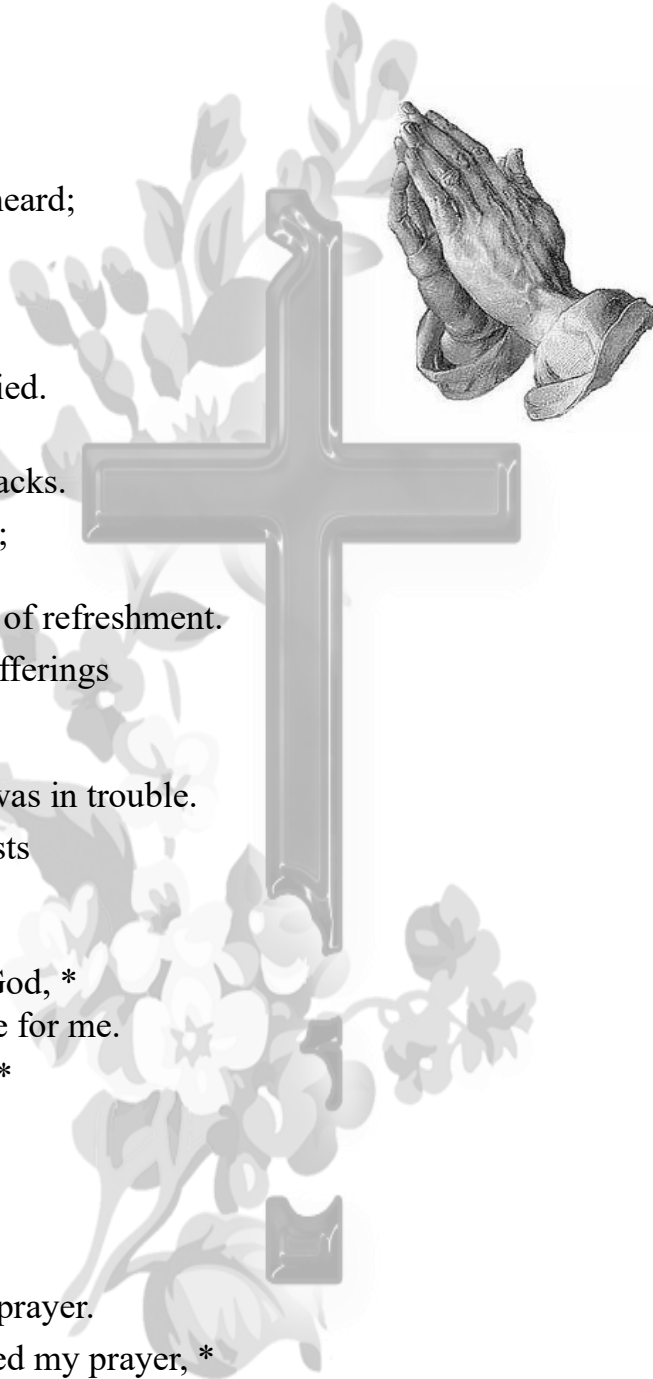
☉ Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

# Psalm 66:7-18

## Jubilate Deo

7. **B**less our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
8. Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.
9. For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
10. You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11. You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
12. I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
and will pay you my vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
13. I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and goats.
14. Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
15. I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.
16. If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;
17. But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
18. Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.



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

**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**  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

### **Reminder to sign up!**

For the family fun day dance spectacular on Sunday, June 4th. A meeting will be held on May 21st between the services. Helpers are needed.  
See Bill Bodine

### **Dollar Auction**

The dollar auction has been changed to June 24th 2023, doors open at eleven. We are accepting items that need to be new, not used. We are also looking for volunteers to help give out refreshments, runners to collect dollars and a banker to make change.

Any questions please see me at church.

*Tom Larson*



## Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--May 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



## TECH THURSDAY

Tech Thursday meets monthly. Our next meeting is May 25th, Watch or call the church office for new dates and times to come. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, ipad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.

## Public Relations meeting

Will be held today after the 10am service at coffee hour.

## 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](mailto:njstateorganizer@gmail.com)

## *Second Reading*

*1 Peter 3:13-22*

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## *Holy Gospel*

*John 14:15-21*

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."



*Welcome to St. Stephen's*

The liturgy today continues to be concerned with exploring the consequences of Christ's resurrection and our new life in him through baptism and Eucharist.

Today's gospel reading is a portion of the discourses between Jesus and the disciples on the evening before his crucifixion. Here Jesus talks about the union between himself and the Father. This union is shared with us so that we can say with St. Paul, "not I, but Christ in me." The source of that union is the Holy Spirit given us in Baptism. The ultimate result of this union is peace; in Hebrew, *Shalom*. Shalom is the restored unity of the creation with God, and the resultant reconciliation between all peoples.

In the first reading, Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke come to Philippi, the first time the gospel moves from Asia Minor to Europe. There Paul encounters a woman who worshipped God although she was a Gentile. After hearing Paul proclaim the resurrection of Jesus, she and her household were baptized and her house became Paul's center of ministry there and quite likely the home of the church in that city.

It is not the created universe that is the ultimate destiny of the human race but the new, perfect city of God's Kingdom. John, in today's reading from the Revelation, envisions the perfection and peace of that Kingdom.

Shalom—the peace and wholeness of God's Spirit—is our destiny and our present reality. The peace and unity of God's reign is revealed in the inclusiveness of the church as people of every race and nation are called by God. In the Eucharist, we have the foretaste of the new life in the holy city prepared for us by God.

*Serving in the Liturgy today:*

*May 14, 2023*

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Linda Chiappetta</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke</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>Mike Munson</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Carol Torres, Bob Virtue, Susan Clarke</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Beverly Larson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

### *Sanctuary Candle*

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

*In Memory of  
William Bodine by  
Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

### *Altar Flowers*

*Altar Flowers are given to  
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of  
Warren (Buddy) Bruen  
by June Bruen & Family*

*In Memory of  
Ginny Johnston by  
Dorian Johnston*

