

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 2023

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

The First Sunday in Lent

*Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice
in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true
of heart.*

Psalms 32: 12



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

Hymnal

The Word of God

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

8 & 10 am

BCP

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

OSL WILL BE JOINING THE, “WOMANS BIBLE STUDY”

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) 350-2904

CORNED BEEF DINNER

Saturday March 11th from 4-6pm doors open at 3:30 tickets are \$20 each
limited to 50 people

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, March 13th @10 AM

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, February 27th @ 10am

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.

Open Acclamation

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Decalogue

Confession and Absolution

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Kyrie

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Collect of the Day

Insert

First Lesson: **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

Insert

Psalm 32

Lenten Booklet

Second Lesson: **Romans 5:12-19**

Insert

Gradual: (*Verse, Matthew 4:4*)

Lenten Booklet

Gospel: **Matthew 4:1-11**

Insert

Sermon — *The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.*

The Nicene Creed

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Prayers of the People (*Form III*)

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The Peace

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Announcements

Offertory: Anthem

Doxology: “*All things come of Thee, O Lord*”

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

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Sursum Corda

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Sanctus

The Lord’s Prayer

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S152

Breaking of the Bread

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S157

Angus Dei

Communion Hymns:

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“*Let Us Break Bread Together*”

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“*Sheppard of souls, refresh and bless*”

150

“*Forty days, and forty nights*”

Post Communion Prayer

366

Blessing

529

Closing Hymn: “*In Christ there is no east or west*”

Dismissal

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

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 public relations team meeting

Sunday March 12th.

Next Stewardship Meeting

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

We'll meet 2x in April after Easter.

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

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan:

Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever... *Amen.*

First Reading

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

Psalm 32

Beati quorum

- 1 **H**appy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.



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

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



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



Order of Saint Luke

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



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Continues Thursdays March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30th, after the Healing Service

Please sign-up in the Narthex.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This day of prayer will be held all over the world and within those 24 hours people pray. The country this year is Taiwan. The ecumenical event will be held here on Friday, March 3 at 10AM. The topic is "I have heard about your Faith" based on Paul's letter to the Ephesians, an invitation to active listening, which is the ground for our prayers. The worship service includes music. Refreshments will be served. ECW Members will be participating as readers, ushers, and creating refreshments. The bulletin will have an insert with details. Contact *Stefanie* at (732) 350-2904 for details.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned— sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the effect of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will give his angels charge of you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' " Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.' "

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.



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>Susan Clarke, Carrol Torres, Kay Karlick</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

On this first Sunday in Lent, the church's liturgy is designed to catch our attention, facing us with the most important issues of Christian commitment and living.

Today's scriptures present us with our solidarity with one another in Christ, and with God's people through the ages. We are part of a people with a story to tell and a song to sing. That story's beginning is recounted in the first reading today in the form of the ancient Israelite confession of faith. This is not read as an interesting account of the salvation of strangers. It is the story of God's first action in our salvation. We are a part of that people, having become members in our baptism. We are to begin our own story by remembering Abraham, our first ancestor in the faith, and by recounting the story of our brothers and sisters in the faith who were saved from Egyptian slavery.

The reading from Romans affirms our unity with the people of faith in all ages, regardless of status or race or culture.

Finally, in the story of the Lord's testing (temptation) we see Jesus as the beginning of the new Israel. The old Israel, in its wilderness wandering, failed these three tests—temptations—to use God merely as a means for acquiring food and power and riches. The scriptures Jesus quotes against Satan come from those three times in the story of Israel's wilderness experience. Israel's failure, which is part of our story, is turned around in Jesus and becomes a saving triumph for Israel, for us who are made one Body in Christ in Baptism and Eucharist, and for those who are preparing to be baptized at Easter.

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

