

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.

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany



THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

8 & 10 am

Hymnal

The Word of God

BCP

191 Processional Hymn: “Alleluia, alleluia, hearts and voices heavenward raise”

Open Acclamation 355

Opening Sentence

S280 Gloria! 356

Collect of the Day *Insert*

First Lesson: **Exodus 24:12-18** *Insert*

Psalm 2 *Insert*

Second Lesson: **2 Peter 1:16-21** *Insert*

Gradual: “Word of God Speak” (lyrics below)

Gospel: **Matthew 5:21-37** *Insert*

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

The Nicene Creed 358

Prayers of the People (Form III) 387

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Offertory:

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

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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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”

477 “All praise to Thee”

461 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

Post Communion Prayer 366

Announcements

Blessing

427 Closing Hymn: “When morning gilds the skies”

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

“OSL, WILL BE JOINING OUR STUDY ON MARCH 9th”

“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

ASH WEDNESDAY February 22nd

Service are at 10am 4pm and 7pm

Service at Aristacare at 12pm, “Ashes to Go” at the three local shopping
centers between the two services, The Pines at 2pm

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.

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

⊕ God, who before the passion of your only- begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever... *Amen.*

First Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tables of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses rose with his servant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, “Tarry here for us, until we come to you again; and, behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a cause, let him go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. And Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Psalm 2

Quare fremuerunt gentes?

- 1 **W**hy are the nations in an uproar? *
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes plot together, *
against the LORD and against his Anointed?
- 3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; *
"let us cast off their bonds from us."
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the Lord has them in derision.
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.
- 6 "I myself have set my king *
upon my holy hill of Zion."
- 7 Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
he said to me, "You are my Son;
this day have I begotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- 9 You shall crush them with an iron rod *
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
- 10 And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- 11 Submit to the LORD with fear, *
and with trembling bow before him;
- 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 13 Happy are they all *
who take refuge in him!



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

PRAYER SERVICE on Saturday February 25th FROM 10:45- 12PM

Looking for volunteers to pray with us. Please sign-up in the Narthex



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

Begins on Thursday February 23rd after the Healing Service

Please sign-up in the Narthex.

COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Second Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."



Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Linda Chiappetta</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>Michael Munson</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Bob Virtue, Susan Clarke, Dottie Kastor</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

On this final Sunday before Lent, we always have as our Gospel reading the account of Jesus' transfiguration. This event is chosen primarily because it marks the turning point in the story of Jesus. It was on this occasion that Jesus clearly foretold his approaching death and resurrection. Thus we are pointed in our Lenten pilgrimage toward the cross and Easter.

The Old Testament reading records Moses' meeting with God on Mt. Sinai in an event like the transfiguration. His forty days and nights with God on the mountain are a prefiguring of our time with God in Lent.

The second reading records the memory of the transfiguration event as a sign that the writer's message is truth, being an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry. We are also witnesses as God transforms us into the likeness of Christ.

Today the Church uses the Easter word "Alleluia" for the last time until the resurrection is proclaimed at the Great Vigil of Easter. In many churches, the ancient "farewell to Alleluia" hymn (Alleluia, song of gladness, Hymn 122 or 123, *The Hymnal 1982*) is sung at the conclusion of the service today. "Alleluia" is omitted from the liturgy throughout Lent in order that its restoration at Easter will underscore our experience of renewal on that day.

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

