

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, 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.



2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. - Mk 9:2-3

THE SECOND 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, LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

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

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

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

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, March 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

319

656 Processional: “*Blest are the pure in heart*”

Confession and Absolution

320

S91 *Kyrie*

324

Collect of the Day

Insert

First Lesson: ***Book of Genesis 12:1-4a***

Insert

Psalm 121

Lenten Booklet

Second Lesson: ***Letter to the Romans 4:1-5, 13-17***

Insert

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

Lenten Booklet

Gospel: ***John 3:1-17***

Insert

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

The Nicene Creed

327

Prayers of the People

328

The Peace

332

Announcements

Offertory: Anthem

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

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

333

S112 Sursum Corda

S113 Sanctus

The Lord’s Prayer

336

S157 Angus Dei

Communion Hymns:

325 “*Let Us Break Bread Together*”

343 “*At the name of Jesus*” (verses 1,2,3)

455 “*O love of God, how strong and true*”

Post Communion Prayer

339

Blessing

559 Closing Hymn: “*Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us!*”

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

Ⓞ God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

First Reading

Book of Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.



Psalm 121

1 **L**ift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.



Second Reading

Letter to the Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then shall we say about Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, his wages are not reckoned as a gift but as his due. And to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is



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

EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS

The Altar Guild is again planning to order potted flowers to decorate the Sanctuary in preparation for Easter. This is a time when we especially may want to remember our loved ones and friends who have died or to express thanksgiving for our blessings.

Easter Flower Offering envelopes will be available in the Narthex for those who would like to participate. Please fill out the appropriate information, and return the envelope to the church at your earliest convenience. [The deadline for submission of Easter Flower Offering envelopes is Sunday, April 2, 2023.](#)

If you have any questions, please call Altar Guild Flower Chair, Valerie Thompson, at 732-657-4510.

Thank you and God Bless.



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 9, 16, 23, 30th, after the Healing Service

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

reckoned as righteousness. The promise to Abraham and his descendants, that they should inherit the world, did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants--not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, for he is the father of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations" --in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can this be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.



Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	JoAnn Smithson
LEM 8:00 am	Richard Smithson, JoAnn Smithson
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro
Ushers 8:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson
Lector 10:00 am	Michael Munson
LEM 10:00 am	Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke, Gerrie Vergona
Altar Guild 10:00am	Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro
Ushers 10:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

The Old Testament reading tells of the story of Abraham's calling by God, and the beginning of his journey into the Promised Land. In this new and unknown place, God opened up new rivers of grace for Abraham and Sarah. In the second reading, Paul expounds on Abraham as the father of faith and as our ancestor in the faith. The journey begun by Abraham and Sarah is a journey that continues in our lives and a journey begun this Lent by all those among us who seek baptism at Easter.

Nicodemus is also interested in a journey -- the journey into God's Kingdom. Here a leading rabbi comes to discuss God's Word with Jesus, whom he recognizes as a fellow rabbi. John tells us this was Passover season and it was accounted specially blessed for rabbis to discuss God's Word through the night during that season. Jesus reveals the way into God's Kingdom to be a new birth, a birth from heaven (the original text means both) through water and the Holy Spirit.

We gather to support each other in our journey, to pray for those who will be baptized, and to be nourished by Christ in his Word and Sacraments -- they are our food for the journey.

Sanctuary Candle

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

*In Memory of
John Dueland, Father & Son, George Frey,
By Joy Frey*

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
John Dueland, Father & Son, George Frey,
By Joy Frey*

